

# GOD WITH US

12/1/2024 | Anthony Jorge

**WARM UP QUESTION:** What special occasion in your life had the most impact on you and why?

**READ:** Matthew 1:18-23 (NLT); 1 John 4:7-10 (NLT)

**FOCUS:** God sacrificially pursues us, unites Himself with us and is ever present with us, because He is love.

**OBSERVE:**

- Advent is the season of the year leading up to Christmas. It refers to an event coming into place (arrival). Christians observe two Advents: the first Advent, which celebrates the Incarnation, the arrival of Jesus on Earth, and the second Advent, the future and anticipated return of Christ. It is important for Christians to be convinced of the sacredness of Advent and to actively observe it, as emphasized in Romans 14:5-6.
- Jesus' first Advent anchors our faith, provides hope, offers peace and creates joy.
- Immanuel, meaning "God with us," is the name prophesied by Isaiah for the Messiah—Jesus, the Savior whose birth fulfilled this divine promise.
- John 1:14-18 (NLT) – "So the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us." He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who is from the Father. Jesus is both fully God and fully man, the perfect union of divinity and humanity.
- God is always with us. He is love, and He first loved us, as revealed in Matthew 28:18-20.
- Love is the way to draw others into love, and this is what God does—most profoundly through the giving of Himself in Jesus Christ. In Jesus Christ, God unites Himself with us.
- God is relational, always pursuing us from Genesis to Revelation.
- Jesus, our High Priest, fully understands our weaknesses. He is neither cold nor distant but intimately present.

**REFLECT:**

- Do you think about how much God sacrificed when Jesus died on the cross and why He did it? Do you realize how powerful this atoning sacrifice of love was towards us?

**TAKE ACTION:**

- Recognize and meditate on the sacrificial love of God.
- Respond with praise to the gift that was given with a sacrifice (Heb. 13:15-16).
- Meditate on Philippians 2:5-8. This should be our attitude.

**PRAY:** *Jesus, thank You for the humbling sacrifice You made for us at Calvary. Help us to display that same attitude of love towards You and others. Please help us to be courageously obedient. Enable us to show mercy to others in need of Your love. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*