

CHRISTMAS EVE: THE ADVENT OF CHRIST'S PRESENCE

The Savior's Personal Permanence



"So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 'Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,' which is translated, 'God with us.'" Matthew 1:22-23

*"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory as the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."
John 1:14*

"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you." John 14:16-17

When Jesus came to live among humanity, people on earth were able to have the Son of God and God the Son personally present with them. And everywhere He went, the revelation of God's truth and the release of God's triumphant power abounded. The gospel was preached, the sick were healed and the demonically bound were set free. The calming influence and impact of the Prince of Peace liberated those troubled and tormented, weighed down by fear and anxiety. Christ's presence changed everyone and everything according to God's goodwill toward mankind. He truly was Immanuel—God come to personally dwell among men and women and deliver them from the penalty, power, guilt and shame of sin's death-dealing effects.

But Christ didn't come in His first advent to remain on earth. He lived, He died, He rose and ascended back to the Father in heaven. So, the question arose, now what? Well, Christ answered that He would remain personally and permanently present in and among redeemed people through the person, presence and power of the Holy Spirit. And so it is to this very day, and so it will be until His second advent when He comes again to reign on earth. Christ's presence is personally and permanently among all those who call Him Savior, Lord and King.



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*Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.
Hark, the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King.
(Hark, the Herald Angels Sing, Public Domain, 1739).*

“Jesus, our Immanuel, how grateful we are that You chose to dwell among mankind as the Son of God and God the Son. For Your presence among the inhabitants of earth became the Source of salvation for all. And, thank You that when You left this earth and returned to heaven, You didn't leave us orphaned and alone. Thank You that You sent the Holy Spirit as the personal expression of Your permanent presence in, upon and among us. You said You would never leave us nor forsake us. You said You would be with us always, even to the end of the age. And, by Your Holy Spirit, You have kept that promise moment by moment and day by day. Because of this, we can enjoy and employ Your presence, peace and power always. Your closeness is our comfort.

In Your ever-present Name we pray, Amen.”