



CHRISTMAS PRESENCE • Part 1

IMMANUEL: THE PRESENCE OF GOD

O COME, O COME IMMANUEL

*O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lowly exile here until the Son of God appears.*

Isaiah 7:13-17 – Three Kings: Ahaz (Judah), Pekah (Israel) Rezin (Aram)

¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, ¹⁶ for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.”

Isaiah 9:6-7 – A Son of David

⁶ For **to us a child is born**, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ **Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.** He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

**Immanuel is a sign of hope. God will deliver.
Things will change. The things we fear will pass.**

Matthew 1:22-23

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they **will call him Immanuel**” (which means “**God with us**”).

O CHRISTIANS, COME AND LET US BE

*O Christians come, and let us be good gifts of peace and charity,
Abundant life, and hopeful day – and give until all people say, “Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel...”*

John 1:9-11,14

⁹ **The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.** ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. - - - ¹⁴ **The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.** We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, **full of grace and truth.**

1 Corinthians 4:6-7

⁶ For **God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light** of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ. ⁷ But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

1 Corinthians 5:20-21

²⁰ **We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors**, as though God were making his appeal **through us.** We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, **so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

**We are called to be the gift of Immanuel. His light shines in our hearts.
We become the righteousness of God. We display the God’s glorious grace and truth.**

O MAY WE BRING A SENSE OF HIM

*In where we go, and where we’ve been, O may we bring a sense of him,
Who came to us in flesh and blood, who blessed and did all people good.*

1 John 4:7, 10-12

⁷ Dear friends, **let us love one another, for love comes from God.** Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. - - - ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that **he loved us and sent his Son** as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but **if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.**

**We are called to be image bearers.
We embody the love of God in flesh and blood.
We are called to be the gift of Immanuel – God’s presence here and now.**