

Sermon Discussion – 3 December 2023

Read Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-23

Getting Started *Sharing from personal experience*

Share your favorite Christmas carol and explain what memories or feelings it evokes for you. Why do you think Christmas carols play such a significant role during the holiday season?

Discussion

1. Explore the meaning of the name "Emmanuel," which translates to "God with us." How does this truth resonate with you, and what significance does it hold in your faith journey?
2. We participated in saying, "God is with us" in different tenses—present, past, and future. How does acknowledging God's presence in various timelines impact your perspective on life and faith?
3. Why do you think Matthew 1:18-23 uses the Hebrew spelling of Emmanuel? Does the difference in spelling carry any specific meaning?
4. Discuss the concept of God's promise to be with us in the future, as mentioned in the context of Moses passing the leadership to Joshua. How can the assurance of God's presence in the future influence our daily lives and decisions?
5. As you look forward to Christmas and the upcoming year, how can the message of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" influence your celebrations and reflections?

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Dayspring, from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Key of David, come
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Adonai, Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times didst give the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Application *Putting knowledge into practice*

- Share personal experiences or stories where you felt God's presence during difficult times. How did knowing that God was with you affect your response to those challenges?
- In your own words, express what it means to trust God in the present, be grateful for His past presence, and find hope in His future presence.