SFAITH

The Story of Christmas in Four Phrases

1. God with us.

Matthew 1:23 (NIV) "the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" [which means "God with us"].

Isaiah 7:14 (NIV) "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."

2. God for us.

Luke 19:10 (ESV) "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Titus 2:14 (NIV)

"[Jesus] gave himself **for us** to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good."

John 3:16-17 (ESV)

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

John 10:18 (NIV)

"No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again..."

3. God in us.

2 Corinthians 1:22 (NIV)

"[God] set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come."

Colossians 1:27 (NIV)

"God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."

1 Corinthians 6:19 (NIV)

"... your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?"

4. Us with God.

Revelation 21:1-4 (ESV)

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God... And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Revelation 22:20 (ESV) "Surely I am coming soon."