



God So Loved the World

Advent 2023 – The Witness of Jesus



Advent

“Advent is a season of the liturgical year observed in most Christian denominations as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Christ at Christmas and the return of Christ at the Second Coming.” ~ *Wikipedia*



“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

*“O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.”*



Advent

- **Four Sundays before Christmas (December 3 through December 24)**
- **Themes of Advent**
 - Hope
 - Peace
 - Joy
 - Love



Love is a feeling

- **Strong affection for another arising out of kinship or personal ties**
- **Attraction based on sexual desire : affection and tenderness felt by lovers**
- **Affection based on admiration, benevolence, or common interests**
- **Warm attachment, enthusiasm, or devotion**
- **Unselfish, loyal, and benevolent concern for the good of another**



Love is an action

- An expression of love and affection
- The sexual embrace
- A score of zero (as in tennis)



Love is a being

- A kind or helpful person
- A god or personification of love
- 1 John 4:7-21



God is Love

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!

~ Philippians 5-8



Love Came Down

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.~ John 3:16



Witness (yes, it's a word!)

- **The state or fact of being close to or connected with someone or something : close association or proximity**
- **The quality of being or doing with something.**
- **Key steps to cultivating witness**
 - **Engage**
 - **Explore**
 - **Witness**



Witness (yes, it's a word!)

I will make my dwelling among you, and my soul shall not abhor you. And I will walk among you and will be your God, and you shall be my people.

~ Leviticus 26:11-12

- Exodus 29:45-46**
- Ezekiel 37:27**
- 2 Corinthians 6:16**
- Revelation 21:3-4**



Witness (yes, it's a word!)

- “Immanuel” or “Emmanuel”
 - “Immanu” (with us)
 - “El” (God)
- “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” ~ Isaiah 7:14
- Matthew 1:22-23



Witness

I'm with you.

Not above, not below.

Not next to, not nearby.

Not across, but with.

I'm with you.



The Love of Advent

- Christ came down to be among us
- Christ saw us, knew us, and still wanted to be with us
- Christ showed us the greatest love of all
- Christ gave us His Spirit to help us
- Christ is returning to dwell with us forever



He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.”

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

~ Revelation 22:20



Merry Christmas, Mosaic!