



CITIZENS
CHURCH

ADVENT: Immanuel | Sunday, December 7, 2025

This week we lit the second candle, which represents **JOY**. Joy is more than an emotion - it is the gift of God's presence with His people. He fills us with joy through His Spirit (Rom 15:13) and God promises that this joy can never be taken away from us (Jn 16:22).

Read God's Word Aloud

Isaiah 7:14

14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Matthew 1:18-25

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. **19** And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. **20** But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **21** She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” **22** All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

23 “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

24 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, **25** but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

LUKE 2:10-11

10 And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. **11** For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.



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Discuss God's Word and God's World

Important: The goal is never to “get through” every question like a checklist. It’s ok to linger on a few questions if they spark sanctifying discussion or opportunities for intercessory prayer.

- When have you sensed God’s nearness, individually (Psalm 139:5-10) and as a group (Matt 18:20)?
- Where else in Scripture do we read about God’s “with-ness”?
- How are Christmas (the coming of Christ) and Pentecost (the coming of the Holy Spirit in Acts 1:4-5; 2:1-13) similar?
- Do you ever forget that God is with you/us? What happens when you do?
- What aspects of this season can keep you from remembering and enjoying God’s nearness? How can we foster fresh awe and wonder at the miracle of “God with us”?
- Who in our lives needs to know that God is present, he cares, and he’s working? How can our Home Group bring Jesus near to them?

Sanctificational Prayer Guidance

Thank God for his incarnation. Thank God for becoming like us and never being far from us.

God, your humility is astounding, and your presence is a gift. May this Christmas be a fresh reminder that you are not a distant deity, but a near and present Savior. And may others, by our love, be drawn to you this Christmas.



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Pray together, asking the Holy Spirit to help you recognize and enjoy his moment-by-moment nearness.

Family Memory Verse of the Month for December

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

Matthew 1:21 (ESV)