

MATTHEW 1 V 23

Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

PRAYER

Thank you Heavenly Father for reminding us at this Christmas season that you dwell with us and have promised never to leave us. Within my daily life help me to experience your peace and presence in a new way. In the quiet moments let me hear your voice. In Jesus Name, Amen.

ISAIAH 9 v 6 -7

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

“of the increase of His government and of peace there shall be no end”, what a comforting thought. The governments of our world seem unable to bring lasting peace but the peace which Jesus brings constantly increases and has no end. In Him we have the abiding peace of His presence.

GLORY TO THE NEW BORN KING!

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.

Charles Wesley (1739)

REFLECTION

When we see a newborn baby we marvel at its perfectness and the miracle of new life. Looking at baby Jesus we see an infant with such vulnerability and yet the embodiment of God Himself. God made flesh. Emmanuel. A baby and yet a King. The tiny baby was Christ - the anointed one - the Everlasting Lord.

As the Christmas carol says “*Heaven born Prince of peace. Sun of Righteousness. Light and Life to all He brings, risen with healing in his wings*”. Such power embodied in this small bundle of new life. Born to give us eternal life - so that we can be born again. He was born to bring us peace and healing and so that we can live forever with Him. He was given the beautiful and yet so powerful name of Jesus. The name at which every knee shall bow and at which demons flee and sickness is healed. No wonder the angels were singing!

Let us rejoice at God’s most precious gift to us. A tiny baby who has brought us such hope. Now our living, all powerful, ever victorious redeemer who brings us daily strength and victory in every situation. What a glorious opportunity to celebrate this Christmas. Let’s look beyond the turkey and festive lights, presents and perhaps loneliness of this season and remember our Jesus, the Light of the World. Let’s determine in our hearts to love Him more and to follow Him closer.
He is so precious!

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NAME

You were the Word at the beginning
One with God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation
Now, revealed in You our Christ.

What a beautiful Name it is,
What a beautiful Name it is
The Name of Jesus Christ my King
What a beautiful Name it is,
nothing compares to this
What a beautiful Name it is, the Name of Jesus
You didn't want heaven without us
So Jesus, You brought heaven down
My sin was great, Your Love was greater
What could separate us now?

Songwriters: Ben Fielding / Brooke Ligertwood. What A Beautiful
Name lyrics © Hillsong Publishing, Hillsong Music Publishing
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CLOSING PRAYER

Thank you Heavenly Father for sending Jesus to be our Redeemer and friend. During this season please help us to embrace more of the wonder of Jesus birth and the realisation of just how much you love us. We pray for those living in countries torn by war, famine and disaster and ask that they would come to know you as their Prince of Peace and in you find security, love and provision. For those who are lonely and missing loved ones we ask for your comforting arms to surround them.

In Jesus Name, Amen.

JOY!

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let Earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

Author: Isaac Watts (1719)

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Emmanuel
God with us