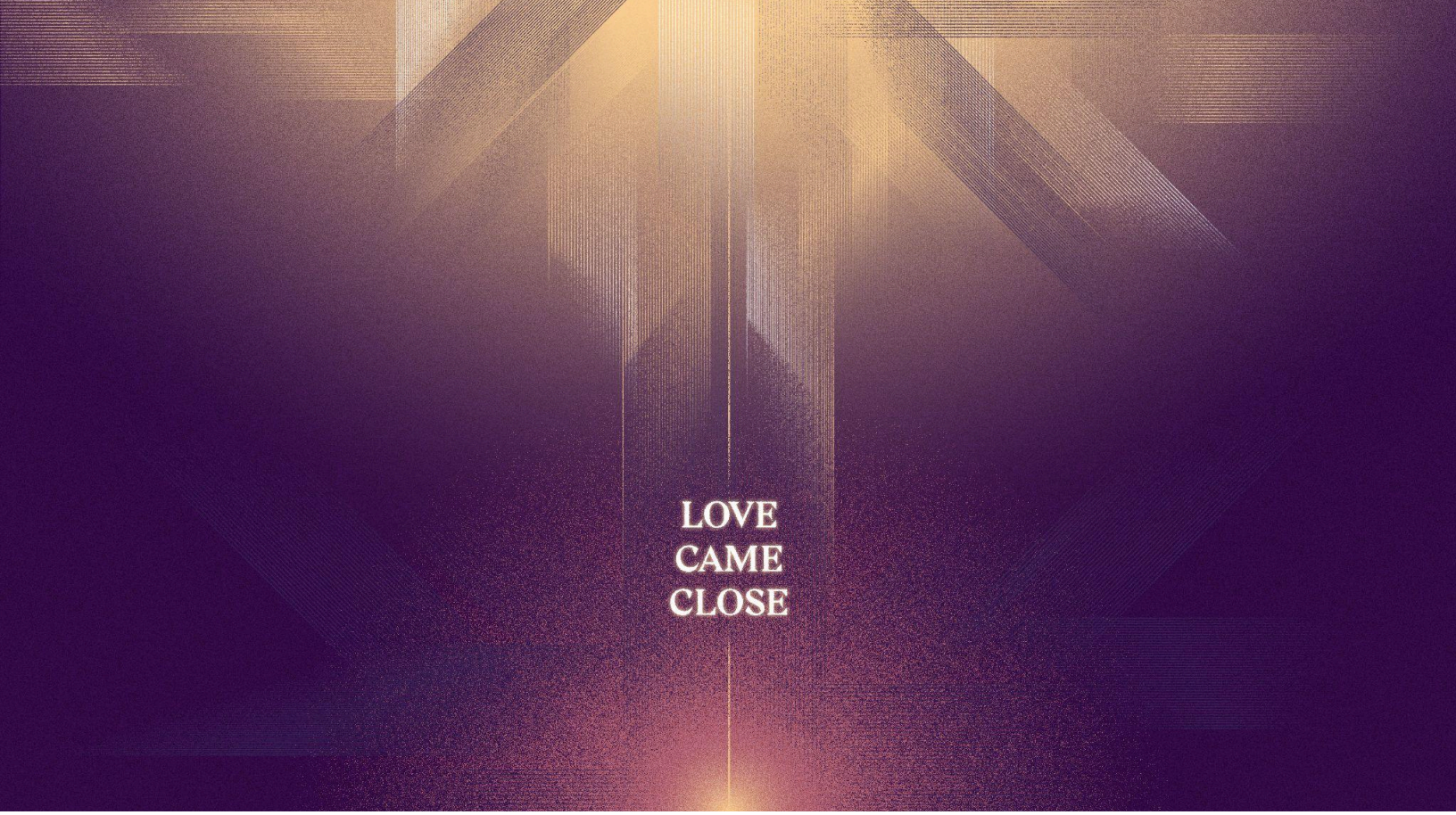


God Is With Us
12.22.2024
Matthew 1:18-25
Melissa Mueller

Matthew 1:18-25
This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.
But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Matthew 1:22-23
All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”(which means “God with us”).

Genesis 3:15
“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

The Precedent of God With Us

Imanu-El

Isaiah 7:13-14
Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”

Matthew 1:22-23
All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”(which means “God with us”).

“Matthew is not just reading Isaiah 7 by itself. Rather, he sees how that promise fits into the whole book of Isaiah, and how the book of Isaiah fits into the whole story of the Hebrew Bible.”
– Tim Mackie, *The Bible Project*

The Power of God With Us







"…God has willed to show His love for the world by descending more and more deeply into human frailty."

- Henri Nouwen

Isaiah 9:2

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned…"

The Promise of God With Us

"God came to us because he wanted to join us on the road, to listen to our story, and to help us realize that we are not walking in circles but moving toward the house of peace and joy. This is the great mystery of Christmas that continues to give us comfort and consolation: we are not alone on our journey. The God of love who gave us life sent his only Son to be with us at all times and in all places, so that we never have to feel lost in our struggles but always can trust that he walks with us…"

- Henri Nouwen

"Oh! may God teach you the meaning of that name Immanuel, 'God with us!' It is wisdom's mystery, 'God with us.' Sages look at it and wonder, angels desire to see it, the plumbline of reason cannot reach half-way into its depths, the eagle wing of science cannot fly so high, and the piercing eye of the vulture of research cannot see it. 'God with us.' It is hell's terror. Satan trembles at the sound of it, his legions fly apace, the blackwinged dragon of the pit quails before it. Let Satan come to you suddenly, and do you but whisper that word, 'God with us,' back he falls, confounded and confused. Satan trembles when he hears that name, 'God with us'–'tis the sufferer's comfort, 'tis the balm of his woe, 'tis the alleviation of his misery, 'tis the sleep which God gives to His beloved, 'tis their rest after exertion and toil…'God with us'–'tis eternity's sonnet, 'tis heaven's hallelujah, 'tis the shout of the glorified, 'tis the song of the redeemed, 'tis the chorus of angels, 'tis the everlasting oratorio of the great orchestra of the sky! 'God with us.'"

- Charles Spurgeon, *On Lord's Day Morning*