

IMMANUEL

COMI support group – Monday, December 2, 2019

“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

Matthew 1:23

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

Hebrews 4:15

"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 towards 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.

The challenge is to let God be who he wants to be. A part of us clings to our aloneness and does not allow God to touch us where we are most in pain. Often we hide from him precisely those places in ourselves where we feel guilty, ashamed, confused, and lost. Thus we do not give him a chance to be with us where we feel most alone. Christmas is the renewed invitation not to be afraid and to let him - whose love is greater than our own hearts and minds can comprehend – be our companion.”ⁱ

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:20b

Prayer for strength and courage

Father,

When we are not strong, You are. When we are weak, You carry us through. Our courage is rooted in Your strength, which takes the anxieties we lift up to You and returns our pleas with a peace that transcends all understanding. Father, it's hard to live at peace in this world. This side of heaven, strength and courage seem to be in short supply for the righteous people of God. Fill us, LORD, with Your presence, Your purpose, and a yearning for Your will to come to pass in our lives. Thank You for loving us, leading us, and calling us home. Each day, we are one step closer.

Thank you for reminding us that you never leave us ...no never. Fill our days with the purposeful pursuit of Your love flowing through our lives.

In Jesus' Name,

Amen. ⁱⁱ

ⁱ Henri Nouwen Society <https://henrinouwen.org>

ⁱⁱ Meg Bucher <https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/what-does-i-will-never-leave-you-nor-forsake-you-mean-in-the-bible.html>