



## Advent Devotions 2022: God With Us

“Watch for this—a virgin will get pregnant and bear a son; They will name Him Emmanuel” (Hebrew for ‘God is with us’). Matthew 1:23 (MSG)

### GOD IS WITH US IN THE STORMS OF LIFE

Storms are often unexpected and unpredictable. One minute the sky is clear and the sun is shining. Suddenly, the sky darkens, clouds roll in, and a fierce wind begins to blow.

These spontaneous storms can cause us to panic because they are out of our control. Sudden storms cause us to doubt that we can make it through and reach our destination. We focus on the storm rather than the One who is with us in and through the storm.

*“Later that evening the disciples walked down to the sea, boarded a boat, and set sail toward Capernaum. Twilight gave way to darkness. Jesus had not yet joined them. Suddenly, the waves rose and a fierce wind began to rock the boat. After rowing three or four miles through the stormy seas, they spotted Jesus approaching the boat walking mysteriously upon the deep waters that surrounded them. They panicked. Jesus called out to His disciples ‘I am the One. Don’t be afraid.’ They welcomed Jesus aboard their small vessel; and when He stepped into the boat, the next thing they knew, they were ashore at their destination.” John 6:16-21*

“Storms overtake us. And it sometimes seems they will never end. But then the unimaginable happens. ‘They saw Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water...’ (John 6:19 NIV). Before Jesus stills the storms, He comes to us in the midst of our storms. He says to us what He said to the disciples: ‘It is I; don’t be afraid’ (v. 20 NIV). Your greatest need is His presence. Yes, you want this storm to pass. Yes, you want the winds to still. But yes, you want to know, you need to know, and you must know that the great I AM is near. (Max Lucado, "You Are Never Alone: Trust in the Miracle of God’s Presence and Power")

In the midst of every storm, I AM, Emmanuel is with us. He will get us to our destination if we trust Him and give Him complete control.

Dear Lord, You know how the storms of life cause me to panic and doubt. Remind me that you are Emmanuel, ‘God with us’ in the midst of every storm this life can throw at me. I know you will get me through the storm and to my destination, if I trust You and give you control. In Jesus name, Amen.