

# Opening Reflections for Committees: December 2017

Witness and Fellowship Ministry Team

## Advent/Christmas

*"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14)*

Blessed is He! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! God is coming! For behold, the Virgin conceives and bears a Son! God is with us!

God has changed everything! You don't find God way up beyond the sky. You don't have to look up to find Him at all! Tonight, you will find God wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger!

But in these last few hours of Advent, there's still some more repenting to do. It takes God Himself to redeem you from your sins. You are in such a fallen state; you are so lost that you can't save yourself. God has to come down from heaven to take on your flesh and buy you back from sin and hell. Consider that this night, with holy fear, and repent of your sins while there is time.

Then, rejoice! For Immanuel, God Himself, is forever with you. No sin separates you from God anymore. No transgression drives Him away from you--not since Christmas! In the darkest places of your life, in the loneliest hole of your existence, He comes to save you. He takes on your flesh to redeem your flesh. He takes on your humanity to sanctify your humanity. You are God's child now.

There's no more excusing your sins by saying, "I'm only human" now. Not since Jesus is born--as if being human is a bad thing! No, Jesus *is* a human man. So being a human is a good thing, too! What He has taken on, He has redeemed! He has made being human a good thing again! The Virgin is with child! God Himself is born this night for you! Now, everything is possible for you! Nothing separates you from God anymore. Nothing separates you from those around you anymore either! Everything is covered with holy white tonight! The forgiveness of sins covers everything! That's the best white Christmas there is!

God is so close this night that He is in your mouth! He takes His Body, born of Mary, and His Blood, shed on the cross, and He gives it to you in His Supper tonight. Christmas, after all, is the Mass of Christ! Receiving Him in the Supper is the best way to celebrate His birth!

**Prayer:** Blessed is He! Blessed is He who comes! God is coming! He is here! Jesus is here! For behold, the Virgin conceives and bears a Son! Merry Christmas! In the Name + of Jesus. Amen.