

Christmas at Hillsong Church



IMMANUEL God With Us

A Journey To Christmas:
Christmas Eve Pause

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Find a quiet space, turn off the lights, and light a candle. Let its glow remind you that the Light of the World has come. This moment can be shared with family, friends, or embraced in solitude.

Take a deep breath. Slow your thoughts. Whisper...

“God, You are with me/us.”

The Christmas Story

Luke 2:1–20 (NIV)

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)

And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told to them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

A Reflection from St Francis of Assisi (Adapted)

“Let us remember the real joy of Christmas — that the Creator of the universe humbled Himself to become like us, so that He might draw us back to Himself. The Lord of glory became small for our sake, wrapped in swaddling clothes, resting in a manger of straw. He chose poverty, that we might know His riches. So let us kneel in awe before the mystery of love made visible — and let every heart prepare Him room.” *(Adapted from the writings of St Francis of Assisi, c. 1223 — the first to stage a live nativity.)*

Song

[Oh Holy Night By Hillsong Worship](#)

A Moment of Stillness

Turn out the lights around you except for one candle. Sit quietly and reflect on this truth:

God is here. He has come. He is with us still.

Take a few deep breaths and thank Him for His presence – in your home, in your family, and in your life.

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Tonight we remember Your coming — the miracle of Your love made visible.

Thank You for stepping into our world, our story, our need.

Be born again in our hearts tonight.

Bring peace where there is fear, light where there is darkness, and joy where there is waiting.

We welcome You, Immanuel — God with us.

Amen.

Blessing

May the light of Christ fill your heart this Christmas. May His peace rest upon your home. And may His presence go with you, now and always.