

# JOY

*Advent 2023, Week #3*



Count it all “joy!” (James 1:2)



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Who better to write about “joy” than  
Jesus’ own brother?



Count it all “joy!” (James 1:2)

What is joy?



Count it all “joy!” (James 1:2)

What is joy?

The opposite of  
“sorrow.”



Count it all “joy!” (James 1:2)

What is joy?

“Calm delight,  
deep gladness,  
the awareness of God’s Grace.”





Count it all “joy!” (James 1:2)


1 The RIGHT Response



Count it all “joy!” (James 1:2)

## 1 The RIGHT Response

YOU can choose  
how you respond to things that happen  
to you in this world!

A manger filled with hay, illuminated by a blue spotlight from above, set against a dark background.



Count it all “joy!” (James 1:2)

## 1 The RIGHT Response

“Resisting this choice will derail progress and deepen despair.” -- Joe Stowell



Count it all “joy!” (James 1:2)


2 The RECKONED Response



Count it all “joy!” (James 1:2)

## 2 The RECKONED Response

To reckon/consider  
is an accounting term that deals with  
cognitive, mental, volitional activity as  
opposed to emotional feelings.

A wooden manger filled with straw, illuminated by a blue spotlight from above, set against a dark blue background.

# Dickens' Ebenezer Scrooge:

Because a little thing affects them. A slight disorder of the stomach makes them cheats. You may be an undigested bit of beef, a blot of mustard, a crumb of cheese, a fragment of an underdone potato. There's more of gravy than of grave about you, whatever you are!



Count it all “joy!” (James 1:2)

3 The REASON for the Response





Count it all “joy!” (James 1:2)

3 The REASON for the Response

Matt. 2:1-10





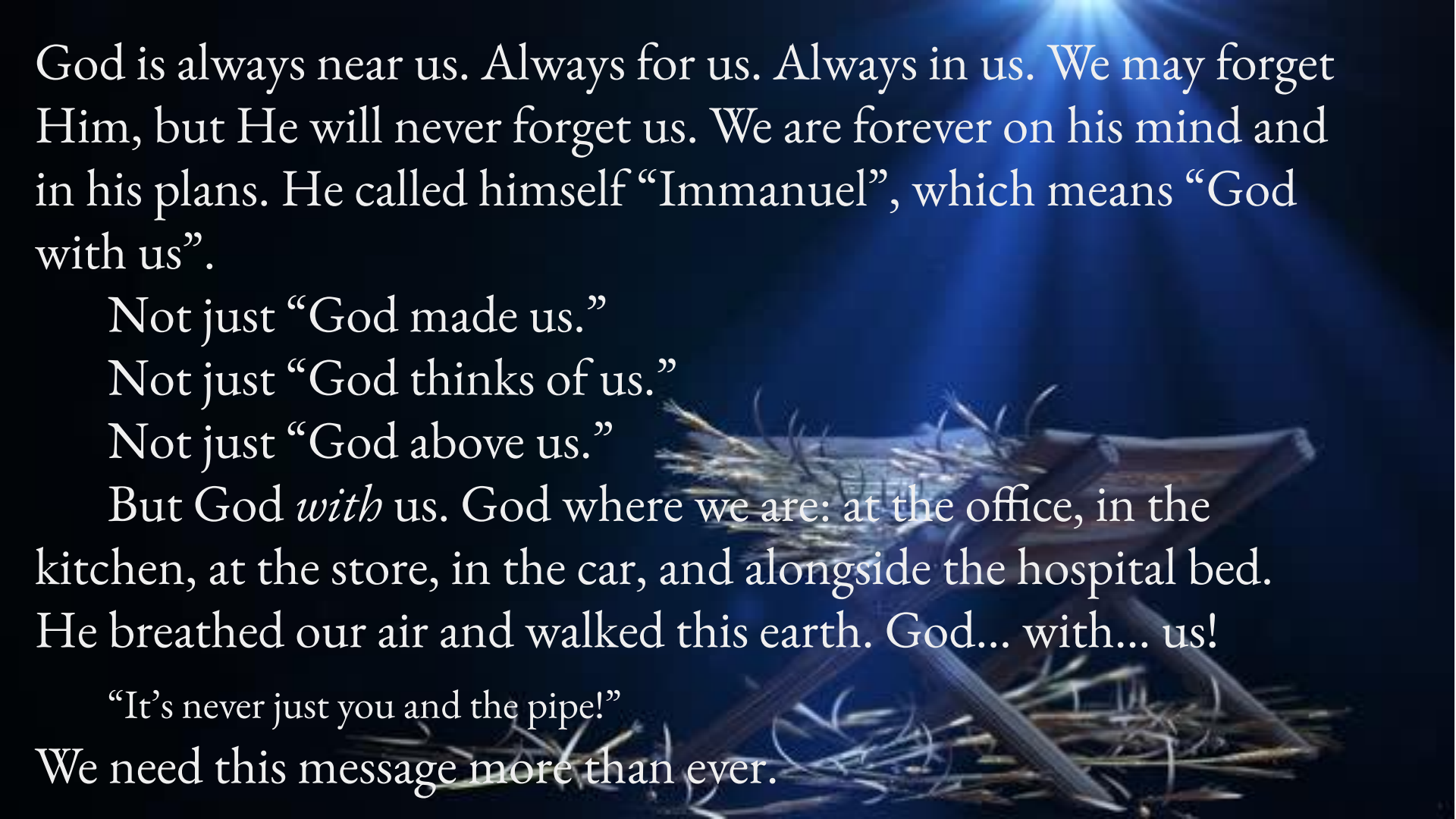
Count it all “joy!” (James 1:2)

3 The REASON for the Response

Matt. 2:1-10

Luke 1:14, 2:7-10



A manger filled with straw, set against a dark blue background with a bright light source in the upper right corner, creating a soft glow and lens flare effect.

God is always near us. Always for us. Always in us. We may forget Him, but He will never forget us. We are forever on his mind and in his plans. He called himself “Immanuel”, which means “God with us”.

Not just “God made us.”

Not just “God thinks of us.”

Not just “God above us.”

But God *with* us. God where we are: at the office, in the kitchen, at the store, in the car, and alongside the hospital bed. He breathed our air and walked this earth. God... with... us!

“It’s never just you and the pipe!”

We need this message more than ever.

# APPLICATION:

It is impossible to save those who are trying to save themselves.



# APPLICATION:

Decide whether you want to bless others  
or not this Christmas



# APPLICATION:

Decide whether you want to bless others  
or not this Christmas

Choose JOY this Christmas





