

January 2, 2024

He is Real!

[Psalm 8](#) and [Matthew 1:23](#)

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel (which means "God with us"). (Matthew 1:23)

Several years ago, my young twin nieces joined us for church services. Our pastor at the time allowed time during the worship for a "children's sermon." All the children of the church were asked to join him on the steps leading up to the pulpit and altar.

My nieces excitedly joined him on the steps to receive a message geared especially toward youth.

I don't remember what the lesson was that day but the pastor closed his talk with the phrase "Jesus is right here with us" and patted the top of the step beside him.

He then invited the children to move closer to share the word of prayer.

One of my nieces got up to move closer to the pastor. As she started to sit down the other one shouted "Don't! You'll sit on Jesus."

We adults often talk about feeling God's presence, but it is seldom as real as it was for the young girls.

This Christmas season is important to once again have the faith of children that the babe of Bethlehem is real and lives among us through the Holy Spirit.

May we always recognize that Immanuel (God with us) is real and close by.

***Prayer:** Heavenly father: May we feel your presence in our hearts as we share your spirit during the Christmas season. Amen*

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