

Thursday, December 10, 2015

*Behold, a virgin shall bring forth a son and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.*

***Isaiah 7:14***

Jesus was born in a bed of straw in a lowly manger, and on a crudely assembled cross died a most atrocious death for our sins. There is not now or ever will be a greater gift to mankind. Because of this fact alone, I find no occasion to despair; His promises are true: "Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, nor yet for your body what ye shall put on." Matthew 6:25. I no longer tell God what I want; He can do what He chooses because I have complete faith in Him and His goodness. Joy is found only when we abandon self. I have learned that any aim in life is God's, not mine, and all He asks is that I trust Him in every circumstance. If God is with us, who can be against us? How glorious it is to be able to say, "Thy will be done." Only when I get out of His way, does He appear to guide me back onto the right path.

I searched for God on the mountain top  
And out over all the land.  
Then found Him reigning magnificently  
in a tiny grain of sand.  
I found Him not in a world of things  
Or in social or emotional ties  
I found Him much to my surprise  
In His Son's loving eyes.

*Dear God, During this season of Advent, help our focus to be on You. Thank you for blessing us with talents and abilities, great and small, to be used for Your good. May our words and actions be acceptable in Your eyes. Amen.*

**Marie Pinschmidt**

(Submitted in 2011)