**GRACE MISSION**

Episcopal Church

*…a transformative ministry of the forgotten*

Ministry Partners:

Many people offer their opinions of the real meaning of Christmas...some are sentimental, saying Christmas is a family time, a time for children and so on. Others are humanistic, seeing Christmas as time to celebrate love for one's fellow man, the spirit of giving, and that sort of thing. Others are crassly hedonistic, viewing Christmas as just another excuse to party. But I’m convinced most people miss the real meaning of Christmas.

Isaiah 7:14 says, *"The Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Emmanuel."* The virgin's name was Mary. Christmas offers its wonderful message. He who resided in Heaven, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, willingly descended into our world. Emmanuel. It is a Hebrew name that means literally, *"God with us."* It is a promise of incarnate deity, a prophecy that God Himself would appear as a human infant, Emmanuel, *"God with us."* This baby who was to be born would be God Himself in human form.

If we could condense all the truths of Christmas into only three words, these would be the words: *"God with us."* The Hope that was born that night welcomes any and all who place their faith in Him - Emmanuel, *"God with us,”* the real meaning of Christmas.

The message that we share at Grace Mission is one of comforting encouragement and hope to know that God is indeed, with us. Thank you for your prayers and support in bringing this message of Hope to the hearts of many who come to Grace Mission.

What a wonderful and glorious hope we have because of that first Christmas!

Pastor Amanda+

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