

DECEMBER 22

## “GOD IS STILL WITH US.”

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### READ

*Isaiah 43:1-3, Luke 2:25-33*

If you say Jesus saved your soul, your sins are forgiven and forgotten, and you have the gift of His righteousness, then you should be enjoying this holiday and every day. 500 years before Jesus was born, the prophet spoke that a virgin would conceive, bear a son, and call Him Emmanuel, God with us. Have you paused long enough to think about that? He is here now. This time of year there are those who feel that God is far away: the elderly who may feel left out or passed by; those couples wanting to have children, but still have empty arms; those who have children far from them and far from the Lord; families with unbearable heartache, grieving the loss of their loved one; fatigued caregivers; those with depleted resources; people weary with pain and sickness. To all of them, I say, “God is with you.” He is not a billion light years away. Simeon was a just and devout man waiting for the consolation of Israel. He was old, his world was torn up, but the Holy Spirit was upon him. He was where many of you are, just waiting. You’ve done all you know to do and nothing has changed. Simeon had heard from the Holy Spirit that consolation was on the way. He knew there was going to be an answer that would deliver the people. That promise is still true. God is still with us.

### PRAY

The psalmist said, “I’ve been young and I’ve been old, but I’ve never seen the righteous forsaken.” Lord, I pray for those in dark places to catch a glimpse of You and the light that Christmas brings.

*From December 18, 2011*