

Jesus Emmanuel

Words: Andy Gleiser

Music: Josh Sparkman

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"Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel,' which translated means, 'God with us.'" (Matthew 1:23)

I suppose every Christian songwriter desires to write at least one Christmas song. Can you ever have too many Christmas songs?

The apostle Matthew helps us out by defining the name *Emmanuel*. **"God with us."** What a designation for Jesus! What a name by which to call Him! God has broken into our world to dwell among us and save us from our sin against Him. No more is He only *God above us* but *God with us*. Oh the grace He has given us in Christ!

Josh wrote the tune of this song and sent it to me to craft lyrics to fit. Along with the initial tune, he passed along one line of lyric that was the essence of what he was looking for. He wondered if I could write something about the incarnation. Something Christmas-y.

His tune sat untouched for nearly two months as I couldn't land on a solid theme. Then my family began listening to Christmas music as the holidays approached! Over and over I kept hearing songs about *Emmanuel*, God coming to us in Christ, and the God-Man dying to reconcile us to God.

With this motivation, I wrote the first draft of the lyrics in two hours which is quite fast for me. I envisioned the church congregation singing together in united joy about our great Savior come down to rescue us. I sought to juxtapose God and man in one person, Jesus.

The first stanza explains and defines Emmanuel as the eternal God come to us as a man. The second stanza joins with the angels in singing a Christmas carol (Noel) of praise to Emmanuel for coming to earth. The third stanza takes us to the cross where the purpose of Emmanuel's birth is revealed. He died to bring us to God. And then the final stanza celebrates the resurrection and eternal dwelling of Emmanuel with His people. What grace! We belong to Him and He to us. He is **JESUS EMMANUEL**.