

Christmas is God With Us  
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Many years ago there was a serious coal mining accident in the Allegheny mountains. Many miners escaped, but three men were trapped somewhere deep in the earth. No one knew if they were alive or dead. As the hours passed, intense heat and noxious gases built up within the mine itself. Two days passed before a search expedition was allowed to enter the mine. The camera teams from the local news station interviewed the three-man rescue team as they prepared to enter what could be their grave. A reporter asked one of the men if he was aware of the noxious gases and the extreme danger of the mine. When the man said yes, the reporter asked, "Are you still going down?"

The man replied, "Those men may still be alive." Without another word of explanation, he put on his gas mask, climbed into the elevator, and descended into the mine.

"Are you still going down?" I wonder if a similar discussion took place in heaven when Christ was still in His exalted position with the Father before He descended to earth to take human form and to die. "Are you still going down into that world where darkness reigns: where might makes right and people value worldly things and ignore the spiritual? Are you still going down when you know that only a few will listen and even fewer will listen to your message of peace and good will? Are you still going down when you know that you will be despised, rejected and finally die a most cruel of death with nails in your hands and feet and a sword thrust into your side? Are you still going down?"

"Are you still going down?" We know the answer to that question, for light has entered our dark world, the least and the lowly have been exalted, and you and I and everyone else have been offered the opportunity to experience anew the grace of God melting away our rebellion, our bitterness, our loneliness, and our fear. This opportunity exists for all who will open their hearts to let the Christ child be born anew within them. Christmas is God with us.

Let us give Him the honor and praise and glory forever more. Amen.