

## God with Us

### Christmas Eve: THE GREATEST PRESENCE

**And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. (Luke 2:8)**

There is always that one package. Maybe it's gotten lost. Maybe it's because that big blizzard in the Northeast slowed down the delivery chain. Maybe it's because you waited until the last possible day that even Amazon will guarantee a before-Christmas delivery. But as snowflakes swirl around the glowing street light on Christmas Eve, your hope is fading quickly for having that gift for the kids. Soon Christmas will be here – and that present will not be. But then at the literal eleventh hour, there is a knock on the door, and a persistent FedEx or UPS driver hands over that final item to go under your tree.

For all but Mary and Joseph, that night before the first Christmas seemed like any other. Innkeepers tried to manage their crowded hotels. Shepherds tended their flocks out in the fields. To everyone in Israel, this was just another day. Messiah? They hoped He would come someday, but there was nothing special about this day to make them even think about Him. Until... that instantaneous moment. That split second when Jesus, Emmanuel, drew His first breath in our world. God was with us. God was among us. God was one of us – and yet so very much more. Nothing has been the same since. In Advent, we have been waiting and preparing. Now we celebrate as the ordinary gives way to the extraordinary. Christ is coming, then and now!

*What is the attitude of your heart as you prepare to celebrate the arrival of Christ? How will you step out of the mundane and ordinary into the supernatural and miraculous?*