

God with Us  
Day 18 FILLED WITH JOY

**I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. (John 17:13)**

Have you ever been reunited with a loved one after a long absence? Have you ever come through uncertain circumstances to discover that those you love are safe and sound? Have you felt the elation, relief, excitement, and hope wash over you? It's a sense of joy compounded by your connection and communication with them, and it can wash over you like a flood.

Can you imagine the joy that will fill us one day when we are reunited with God? The intensity of this overwhelmingly perfect emotion must defy anything we can comprehend on earth. But Jesus has left us a fulfilling taste of it in His God-with-Us presence and His enduring words. As He prayed and communicated with the father in John 17, He left a message for the world. Why? "So that they may have the full measure of my joy within them" (John 17:13). Jesus' prayers for his disciples - and for all of us who follow Him afterward - are for protection and unity. They are for connection with each other and with God while we are still in this world. They represent the truth that God with Us brings, and they fill us with joy in this lifetime, despite its challenges and hardships. It is a satisfying taste of joy in relationship that one day will flood and satisfy us completely. In the meantime, we can refuel through our connection and communication with the Father through Jesus, and we can experience His joy.

***Who is it you can reach out to and renew a relationship? How can you carry with you the words of Jesus' prayer in John 17 during Advent: to experience joy in unity with God and with others?***

