

From the Desk of the General Minister

Advent. . .a time of waiting in hope. Who is it that waits? We often think of this as a time in which we are waiting and preparing for the return of Jesus Our Savior to Earth at the end of time. There is also someone else who waits. Our God waits for us each and every day to turn our lives and our hearts toward the loving embrace of the God who knows us better than we know ourselves. God waits for us to recognize His presence among us in the most unlikely of places. Many of us have decided how we want Jesus to make his return to Earth and how we want him to make his presence known. We also want this manifestation to be well planned and thought out before it ever occurs. We don't want any surprises and we want the whole event to be perfect. It sounds like the way in which we hope our Christmas will be every year.

We find ourselves a bit frenzied when we can't get all of our Advent readings read, gifts bought and wrapped, cards written and sent, rooms neat and clothes clean and wrinkle free in time for midnight Mass on Christmas Eve.

. . .and God waits, patiently.

O come, O come, Emmanuel!

We also find ourselves out of sorts or upset when the people we live and/or work with each day are not who we want them to be. How can God possibly love them and work through them?

. . .and God waits, with mercy.

O come, O come, Emmanuel!

Remember the lives of the young man and woman who were two of the main characters at Bethlehem over two thousand years ago.

Mary, a young unmarried teenager, had been approached by an angel (not your typical everyday occurrence) and told that she was to become the mother of her Creator by the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph was visited in a dream by an angel and told not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife even though she was pregnant with a child who was not his. Not only did these two have to deal with the social gossip about them, but, they had to learn how to relate to each other as husband and wife about to bring a new life into the world.

They found the presence of God in the gruff innkeeper who showed them the way to the cave.

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

They found the presence of God in the animals who shared the cave with them and

breathed on the baby to keep him warm.

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

They recognized God in the awestruck faces of the shepherds who, though uneducated, had the faith to hear the angels sing and follow their lead to the stable.

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

We continue to prepare the way, our way. . .and our God waits. Will we allow him to find us this year?

**O COME ALL YE
FAITHFUL!**