

## **Emmanuel- God is with us!**

Today is the last Sunday before the celebration of the Nativity of the Lord. We remember that throughout the Advent season, we have been invited in different ways to prepare for this feast, which we will celebrate within the week, Christmas. This feast is the celebration of the fulfillment of the promises God made to his people, the coming of God to be with us so that we become one with God.

God always wants to recognize his ever-abiding presence among us. Thus, the prophet Isaiah (7:10-14) points out in the first reading, "Therefore, the Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel." Hence, on this last Sunday of Advent, we reflect on how ready we are to welcome the Emmanuel- God is with us.

The presence of God in our lives shows how we find God in every aspect and situation of our lives. This presence doesn't mean that our life will be a bed of roses, but it means that we see God's hand in the face of challenges and difficulties. It is an invitation to hand over everything we do to God and to see the hand of God in everything that happens to us.

The genealogy of Jesus and the place of Joseph in the salvation history we read in today's Matthew's Gospel invites us to learn from Joseph how we make decisions amid the changes life gives us. Joseph handed everything he did into the hands of God, and God directed him in his choices. Let us pray that the good Lord helps us to entrust always unto his hands and always feel his ever-abiding presence- Emmanuel, especially during this Christmas. Amen.

**Blessed Cyprain Iwene Tansi- Pray for us!**