

December 20, 2020

Becoming God's Children

John 1:10-18

We're almost there. It's almost Christmas! After a year unlike any other, we need Christmas more than ever. And how magnificent it is to be called a child of God this time of year, to celebrate the birth of our Savior and, in turn, our salvation. Throughout this season of Advent, we have waited, anticipated, and carried a candle through the dark night. This year has given us more time to be quiet and to reflect on the upcoming day of Christ's birth. It has been a year for Advent.

If you haven't had time to sit in solitude with the enormity of what Christmas Day symbolizes, I invite you do that this week. If your holiday gathering is cancelled or scaled-down this year, I invite you to use the time you'd normally spend preparing to focus on the arrival of our Savior. Because we have welcomed him, we will be known as children of God. At the end of a year of fear, anxiety, and sadness, let that be a reason to celebrate.

As the student book author writes, "God gives us hope. We have been made God's own children through the person of Jesus Christ, who 'became flesh and made his home among us.' Here we are with Christmas in five days, and the miracle of Christmas is this: that Jesus is born into the world he created and loves."¹ God has been with us throughout 2020, and God will continue to be with us forever. Rejoice in that! Sit with that. Revel in what that means. "But those who did welcome him, those who believed in his name, he authorized to become God's children" (John 1:12).

Merry Christmas! May God's love be a comfort to you.

1. What are you thankful for this Christmas?
2. How will you focus on Jesus Christ during this last week of Advent?
3. How will you and your family celebrate being God's children this holiday season?

Rachel Mullen is the features and acquisitions editor for *Christian Living in the Mature Years Magazine*.

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