

# Regenerate

Dear Lord, I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you want and with whom you want. Put me to doing or if need be to suffering. Let me be of service to others or refined through holy reflection and solitude. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things or let me have nothing for I freely and heartily yield everything to your pleasure and disposal. My heart's desire is for your glory to be seen in me and through me, a redeemed sinner and now a friend of Christ. O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. So be it forever and ever. This prayer, which I have prayed with my lips and from my heart, may it be heard by you Lord and sealed with the strength of your gracious love. Amen.



## “God is the Gift”

“The miracle of Christmas isn’t about gifts. Christmas and Advent is not a time of waiting for gifts; rather it is a time of waiting to recognize that the Giver is the gift. The gift is the invitation into God’s story about how the human and the divine have come together in Christ and in the body of Christ, the church.

God is the gift, and the gift is an invitation to participate in God’s story- for God so loved the world that God became a part of it. Through Christ, God dwells within each of us. As the church, we are the place where God’s story of love is offered to the world. God is love, so when we learn to care, when we learn to share our gifts with the world, when we make room for those society has forgotten, or when we take time to sit at the bedside of one we never thought we could forgive, that is when we experience the very heart of God.”

- Excerpt from Matt Rawle, [The Gift of the Nutcracker](#)

Hymn: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

7 O come, Desire of nations bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind.  
from dust thou brought us forth to life;  
deliver us from earthly strife.

*Rejoice!*

*Rejoice!*

*Emmanuel shall come to thee,*

*O Israel.*

WORDS: 9<sup>th</sup> Century Translation

REFRAIN: Laurence Hall Stookey, 1986



## Reflections

What speaks to you from either the reading or the hymn?

How is God a gift to you?

How is our church a gift from God?

How is your committee or ministry team inviting others to participate in God’s story?