

## Christmas Eve, December 24

When the Snow Comes

*The Lord has saved us! Let's celebrate. We waited and hoped – now our God is here.*  
Isaiah 25( CEV)

On this hot July day, we were visiting elders in Ft. Chipewyan and offering them handmade prayer shawls. All were touched and delighted by the thoughtful gift. Created by loving hands, the beautiful shawls were a potent reminder of God's presence with the elders. They were a symbol of the unbounded relationship between us as brothers and sisters in Christ.

The gift of the shawls and the love in which they were made and given was cause for joy and celebration. And yet, to experience the fullness of the gift as protection from the cold, dark winter days, the elders had to wait until the snow comes. There was a sense in which the giving and receiving of the shawls were preparation for the full benefit of the gift, still several months away.

It is in that waiting and anticipation that the shawls reminded me of Advent. Jesus, Emmanuel, the gift of God with us has come! Salvation is here! God has saved us from the darkness of separation from him, and brought us into his presence. So, we look for his presence among us in the gift of each other. We celebrate the in-breaking of his Kingdom – glimpses of the life of heaven – whenever and wherever God's love is made known.

And yet, like the elders who wait for the snow to come, we also wait, for we know that fullness of life in God's Kingdom, the realization of the entirety of God's promise is still to come. Therefore, as we celebrate that God has come among us and saved us, let us also hold on to the hope that Jesus will come again.

**Amen! Come Lord Jesus! Thank you, Lord, for fulfilling your promise of everlasting life for all who believe in you. As we celebrate your coming, keep us faithful and true until you come again. We pray this in Jesus' Name. Amen.**

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