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4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,
5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.
6 And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth.
7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.



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8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.
10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.
11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
12 And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."



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Dwelling on the Incarnation
1. The "what" of the Incarnation
2. The "why" of the incarnation
3. Bowing before the incarnate Lord



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"Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant
so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace"



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The Incarnation has always been hard to digest



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“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:1-3 & 14)
“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11)



Jesus Christ is, “The only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father.”
- Nicene Creed



The Baby wrapped in the manger is God



“The dogma of the Incarnation is the most dramatic thing about Christianity, and indeed, the most dramatic thing that ever entered the mind of man”
- Dorothy Sayers



2. The “Why” of the Incarnation



11 “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord”



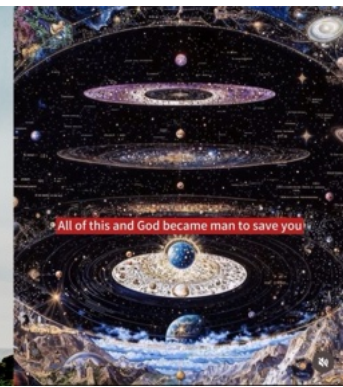
Salvation needs to come from outside of us
It needs to be given, not earned



Only God could live a perfect life, only man could die. So God became man, in order to right our wrongs, restore our nature, & forgive us our sins



3. Bowing before the Incarnate Lord

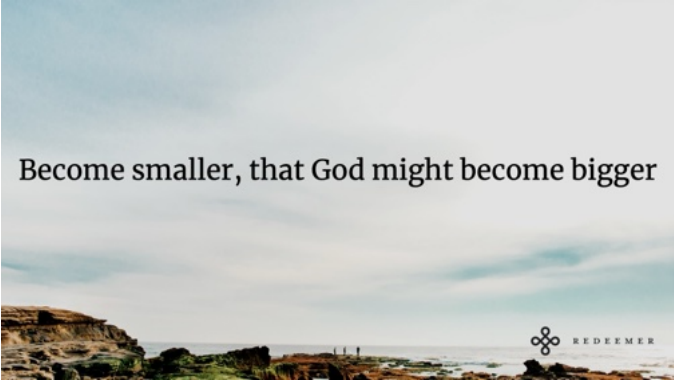


God is not done with your tears

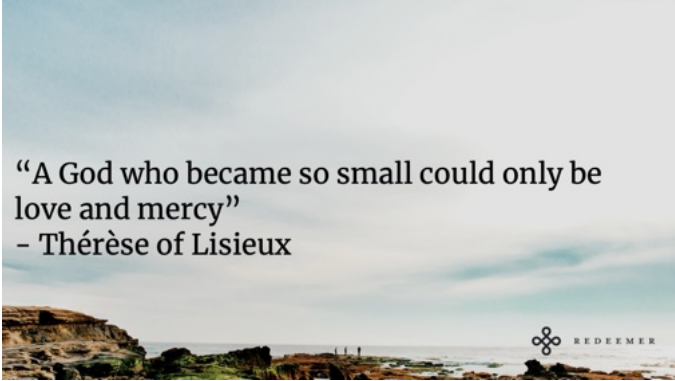


“We are told to put on Christ and we think of him in his private life, his life of work, his public life, his teaching and his suffering life. But we do not think enough of his life as a little child, as a baby. His helplessness, his powerlessness. We have to be content to be in that state too. Not to be able to do anything, to accomplish anything”
Dorothy Day





Become smaller, that God might become bigger



“A God who became so small could only be
love and mercy”
- Thérèse of Lisieux

