

Incarnation: The Holy One In Our Midst
(Hosea 11:8-9; Luke 2:1-20)

The Christmas Story Is the Story of the Transcendent Made Immanent - Matt 1:18-23

- Transcendent: that which is beyond us
- Immanent: that which is with us

The Gospel Story Is the Story of Creation, Incarnation, and Re-creation - Jo 1:1-18

- The Creator comes in Person to re-create creation - Hos 11:8-9
- Demonstrating God's loving intent to fulfill the covenant promise - Gen 11,17
- The coming of Jesus Christ is the climax of the covenant - Lk 2:10-11; Ro 10:8-13

When the Holy One Came to Be in Our Midst... (Lk 2:1-20)

- ...He came in simplicity
- ...He came in surprising fashion
- ...He came making everything significant

When the Holy One Comes into Us...

- ...It is a call to simplicity - II Cor 11:3
 - A simple message: "God within us" - II Cor 13:5
 - A simple response: "May it be done to me according to your word" - Lk 1:38
- ...Be ready for surprises - Isa 55:8-9
 - Toss out our preconceived ideas of God
 - Let go of our notions of the "successful Christian Life"
- ...Everything has significance - Ro 11:36; Ro 8:28
 - Overlook no one
 - Discount nothing

The Message of Christmas: The Holy One Is in Our Midst... Today!