

CELEBRATING SCENES FROM THE NATIVITY

"A Godly Place...Born in a Manger"

Luke 2:1-20 (Pew Bible Page 724)

THE REASON WE CELEBRATE THE CRECHE

"Creche" — French word for manger/crib

It is easy to LOSE FOCUS at Christmas time

The Nativity TELLS THE STORY of Christmas

THE MANGER HAS BECOME SUCH A HOLY PLACE BECAUSE...

1. It is central to our Christmas TRADITIONS
"She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in clothes and laid him in a manger—there was no room for them to stay in the inn." Luke 2:7
2. It continues the Church's HISTORY
 - * 4th Century Wall Paintings of the Nativity
 - * 13th Century St Francis of Assisi: live outdoor Nativity
3. It captures the Biblical STORY OF GOD'S LOVE
"...but the angel said to them, 'Don't be afraid! I am here with Good News for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day in David's Town your Savior was born—Christ the Lord! What will prove it to you is this: You will find a baby wrapped in clothes and lying in a manger.'" Luke 2:10-12

HOW YOU CAN MAKE THE CRECHE A PART OF YOUR CELEBRATION...

1. Come and SEE
"...the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us now go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass which the Lord has made known unto us.' And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the babe lying in the manger..."
Luke 2:15-16

2. Go and **TELL**
"And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this Child." Luke 2:17

3. Remember to **PRAISE**
"And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen..." Luke 2:20