

A SIMPLE GUIDE TO

the Holy Days

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT -- INCARNATION

The Christian message is not one of escaping this life so that we can get a better one. The Christian hope is not that we can rid ourselves of our bodies. The Christian story is not of a God who from afar decreed that everything's okay and we're forgiven. No, the Christian message, hope, and story are rooted in the fact that Christ became one of us to redeem us.

He *really did*. Does that stir you? It should.

The eternal Son of the triune God became a human person— a man— to rescue us. He *really did* enter the womb of a virgin and cloth Himself in our flesh. He *really was* born. Forget about what the hymn says; He *really did* cry when He woke up in the night when the cattle were lowing. He *really did* get hungry. And when He did, He also *really did* nurse.

Why? Because He loves you so much that He wanted to become like you so that you would love Him so much that you would want to become like Him. That's love incarnate.

Scripture Reading:

II Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Psalms 89:1-4, 19-26

Luke 1:26-38

Romans 16:25-27