

Blessing for A Home Nativity Scene by Pastor Maren Hooper

Did you know? The custom of displaying figures depicting the birth of Jesus Christ owes its origin to St. Francis of Assisi, who made the Christmas crèche or manger for Christmas Eve of 1223.

Gather with your family and/or friends around your Manger Scene. For a more interactive experience, set up your manger's figurines as the story is being read!

Select one person, or take turns, reading Jesus' birth story from the Gospel of Luke.

Luke 2: 1-14 The Birth of Jesus

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Shepherds and the Angels

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'

Prayer:

God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made known your extravagant love. When our need for a Savior was great, you sent your Son Jesus to take on flesh and share in the joys and sorrows of human life.

Bless all who look upon this manger. May it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, who comes to us still today, bearing gifts of mercy, joy, peace and love. Amen.