

## Words around the manger

- \* Meagreness; inadequacy absolute minimum; not enough
- \* Cold, winter, snow
- \* Dark
- \* Strangely bright – light coming into the world in a new way, from a new place
- \* Humanity moved to come; to gather
- \* Some bearing gifts
- \* Inexplicably
- \* Angels
- \* The ordinary; the common folk
- \* Serenity
- \* Adequacy actually
- \* Warmth actually
- \* The Magi
- \* Bethlehem
- \* Mary and Joseph
- \* The Baby
- \* A family alone
- \* A new beginning
- \* The stuff of the renewal of the face of the earth
- \* Not sterile
- \* Baby at risk
- \* Simplicity
- \* Humility
- \* Gratitude
- \* Mary's tenderness towards the baby following God's tenderness toward all
- \* The birth of the Messiah
- \* Born to show the ordinary the shape of true greatness
- \* And how to become and ultimately to aspire to Kingdom greatness
- \* The beginning of a revolution from below; from amongst the ranks of the ordinary, the out crowd, the broken, the wounded and diseased and ravaged (non) members of contemporary society.
- \* A revolution that brings together all of creation – angels and cattle, goats and sheep, kings and shepherds and a little drummer boy.
- \* Not pleasantly fragranced
- \* Yet bringing a fragrance that would spread incense-like over all creation
- \* Hope being restored
- \* Inaugurating the Age of the Good God news – the dawn of the Gospel
- \* Inaugurating the golden age of human existence – in fact all life
- \* Inaugurating a religion for humanity whose leaders are servants
- \* Where "God became man so that man might become God."
- \* God stepping into human history to make things easier and accessible for all
- \* The Fulfilment of all that was prophesied over millennia:

"For unto us a son is born  
And the government shall be upon his shoulders  
And his name shall be called  
'Wonderful counsellor  
Almighty God  
The everlasting Father  
Prince of peace'"

- \* The mystery of what is beyond and within – beyond what can be seen and heard and touched and what is within all of humanity
- \* The attractiveness and beauty of God
- \* The insufficiency of all else
- \* Christ Jesus our only Light
- \* The realisation that the incarnation is for emulation not adulation
- \* Emulation stimulates action
- \* Adulation only births inertia

Selah

Amen