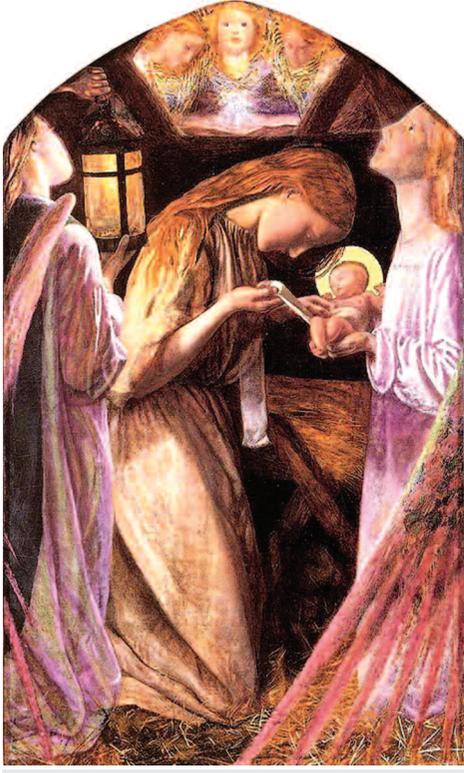


Christmas is the celebration of the Birth of Christ

Mathew 1: 18-25



The Nativity, Arthur Hughes, 1858

18. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.



Giotto, Scrovegni Chapel, 1305

19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.



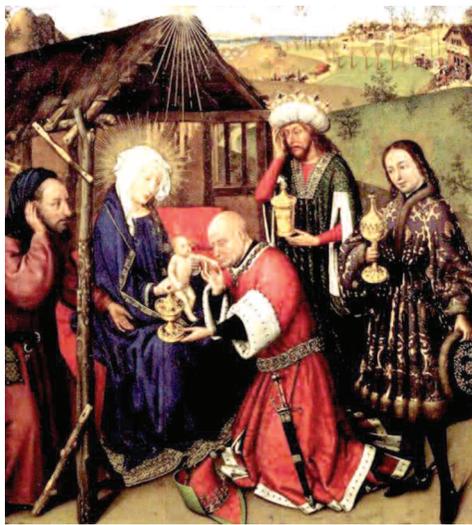
Duccio di Buoninsegna, 1308

20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.



The Nativity, Conrad von Soest, 1403

21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.



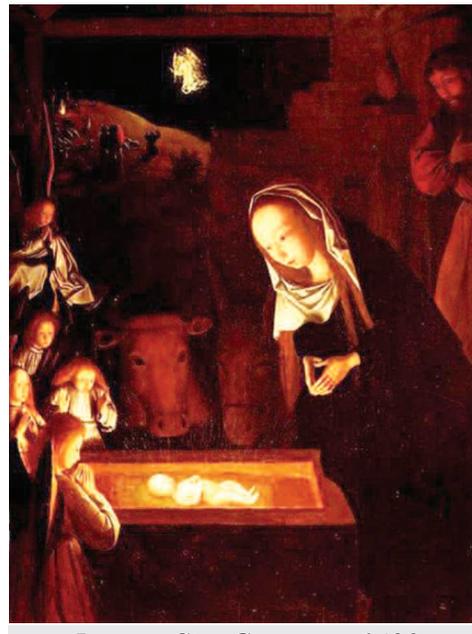
Altarpiece of the Virgin, Jacques Darat, 1433

22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,



Piero della Francesca, 1470

23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.



Jans tot Sint Geertgen, 1490

24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:



Domenico Ghirlandaio, Adoration of the Shepherds, 1485

25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name Jesus.

Luke 2: 1-20



Lorenzo Costa, 1490

1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.

2 And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.



The Virgin of the Veil, Aambrogio Borgognone, 1500

3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)



Adoration of the Shepherds, Giorgione, 1500

5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.



Gerard David, circa 1510

6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

Mathew and Luke describe the birth of Christ



Gerard David, circa 1510

7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.



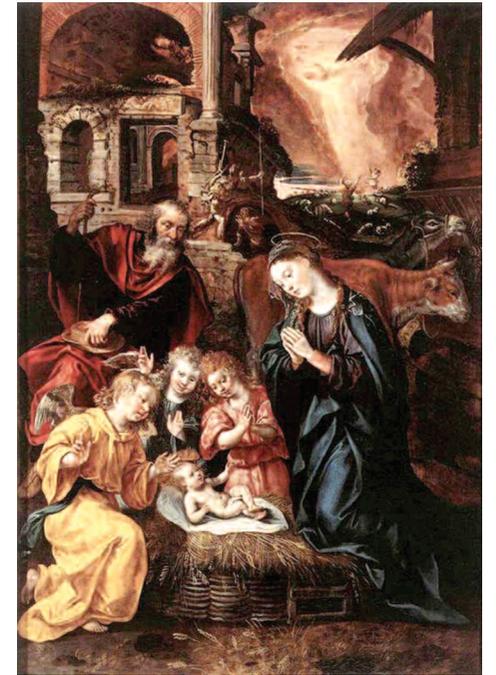
Antonio Allegri, called Correggio, 1528

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.



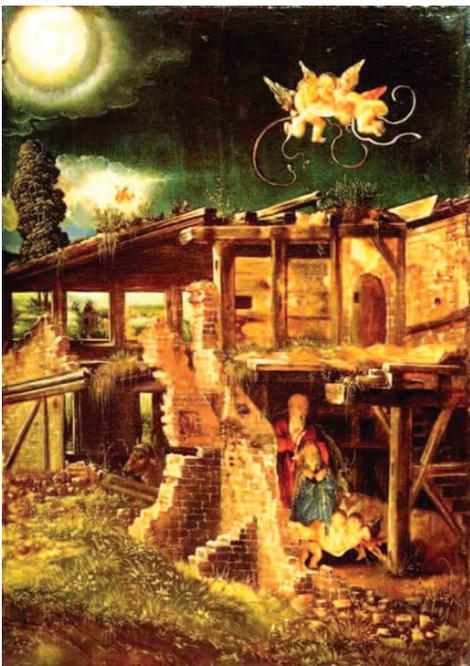
The Birth of Christ, Federico Barocci, 1597

14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



Marten de Vos, 1577

17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.



Albrecht Altdorfer, 1513

8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.



Pieter Bruegel, 1564

12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.



The Nativity with Sts Francis and Lawrence, Caravaggio, 1609

15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.



Michael Pacher, The St. Wolfgang Altarpiece, 1503

18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.



The Concert of Angels and the Nativity, Matthias Grünewald, 1515

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.



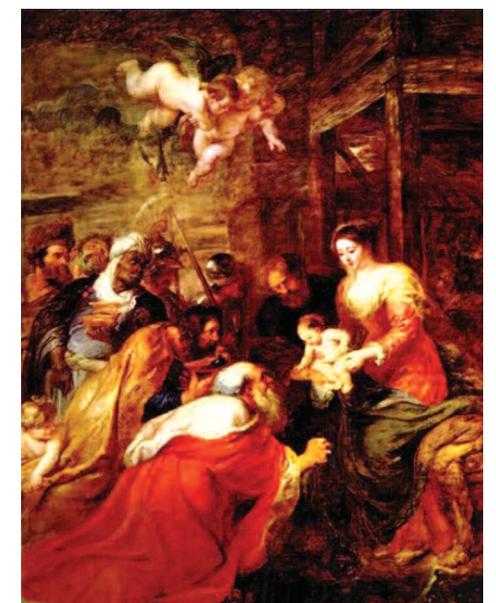
Adoration of the Kings, Hendrik ter Brugghen, 1619

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,



Gerard van Honthorst, 1622

16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.



Peter Paul Rubens, 1634

20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.