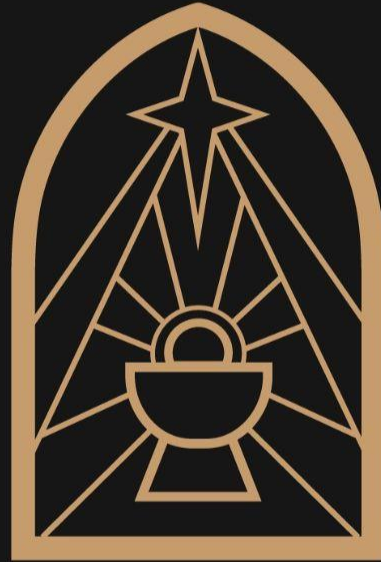


SYMBOLS OF CHRISTMAS



AN ADVENT SERIES





SYMBOL # 3: Swaddling Cloths

Luke 2:4-7

4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. 6 And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guest room.

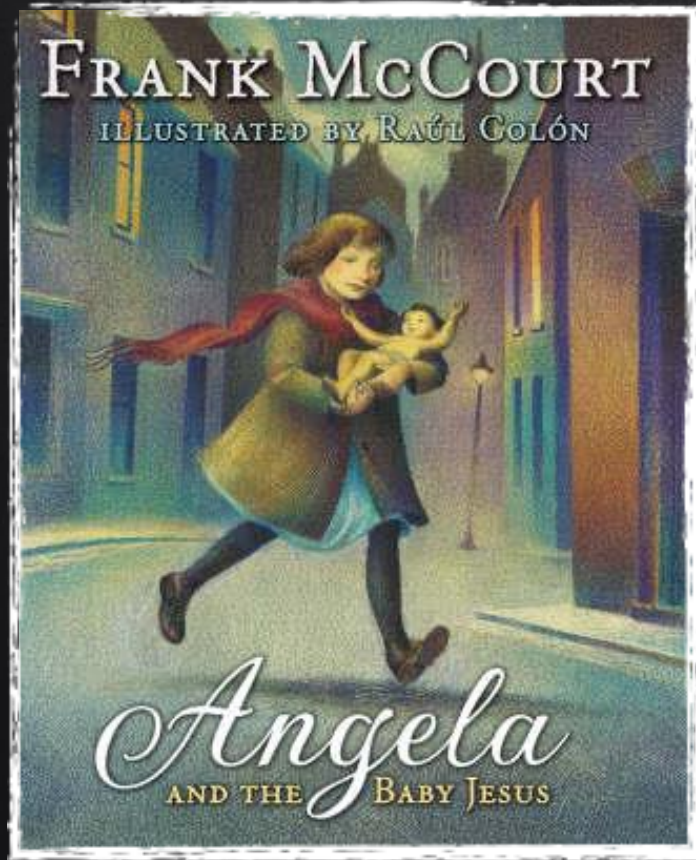
Luke 2:8-11

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

9 And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

“And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby *wrapped in swaddling cloths* and lying in a manger.” (v. 12)

Angela and the Baby Jesus (2007)



“And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby *wrapped in swaddling cloths* and lying in a manger.” (v. 12)

The Christmas story is a human
story.

“And as for your birth, on the day you were born your cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water to cleanse you, nor rubbed with salt, nor wrapped in swaddling cloths. No eye pitied you, to do any of these things to you out of compassion for you, but you were cast out on the open field, for you were abhorred on the day that you were born. And when I passed by you and saw you wallowing... I said to you... ‘Live!’ ...I made you flourish.”

(Ezekiel 16:4-7)

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted and tested as we are, yet without sin.” (Hebrews 4:15)

“For because he himself has suffered when tempted and tested, he is able to help those who are being tempted and tested.”

(Hebrews 2:18)

“He had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.” (Hebrews 2:17)

God in Christ became fully
human and lived perfectly
human, so that we might be made
more than human!

“He was a baby and a child, so that you may be a perfect human. He was wrapped in swaddling clothes, so that you may be freed from the snares of death. He was in a manger, so that you may be at the altar. He was on earth that you may be in the stars. He had no other place in the guest room, so that you may have many mansions in the heavens.” (Ambrose of Milan)

“‘He, being rich, became poor for your
sakes, that through his poverty you might
be rich.’ Therefore his poverty is our
inheritance, and the Lord’s weakness is
our virtue. He chose to lack for himself,
that he may abound for all. The sobs of
that appalling infancy cleanse me, those
tears wash away my sins.” (Ambrose of
Milan)

“He was wrapped in swaddling bands,
but at the resurrection he released the
swaddling bands of the grave!”
(Gregory Nazianzus)

“He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.” (John 1:10-13)



Receive Him!
Embrace Him!
Have
fellowship
with God!