

**I ask to be present at Jesus' birth and to understand more deeply what it means for all of us human beings and so for me.**

In my own words, what I ask is . . .



*So the Lord's promise came true, just as the prophet has said, "A virgin will have a baby boy, and he will be called Immanuel," which means "God is with us."*  
-Matthew 1:22

Reading

Brackley – 8. The Reign of God pp. 67-72

Once again, we can read this chapter as a reprise on what we prayed last week.

Creighton – 15. We Experience His Birth, for Us pp. 115-122

Suggestion

Using the way of entering imaginatively into a gospel scene outlined by Creighton last week, make yourself present at Jesus' birth, letting your creative imagination deliver all sorts of details. [Don't be afraid to do this on the grounds that we are not dealing with "history" here. Like all great literature, this gospel story—and your imagining it—can yield "truth" more important than historical fact.]

Scripture

Matthew 1:18-24; Luke 2:1-21; Matthew 2:1-12, 13-23; Psalm 98.

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Summing up the week: "He was like us in all things . . ." including being carried in his mother's womb and being born.

Journaling: Write about anything from the reading, praying, scripture that you want to hold on to.

Group Meeting: From praying the Sp. Exs. this week, what do you want to bring to the group?