

## Christmas! We celebrate that God becomes human.

There was nothing romantic about the first Christmas. Mary, very young, hugely pregnant, in labor, completely inexperienced and probably scared. Giving birth under difficult conditions: No room, no midwife, just a stable and her husband who probably had no idea how to help her.

God comes into the world. As a baby. Not with a song and dance, but quietly on the margins. In an occupied territory. Outside where only animals live. Homeless. And a refugee within a few days.

God comes into the world. Into its dirt. He is not too good for this. Not too great. Not only close to people, but a human himself.

God becomes human. Because he does not want to be far away, unmoved and unreachable. He wants to be involved, even in sweat and stench.

God becomes human. Becomes visible. Becomes touchable.

God becomes a baby. Small and dependent. Vulnerable. So that we don't confuse him with the powerful of this world. With presidents and warlords. With dogmatists and super-moralists.

God becomes human. Learns physically what that means. Heat and cold, laughter and sorrow, hunger and party.

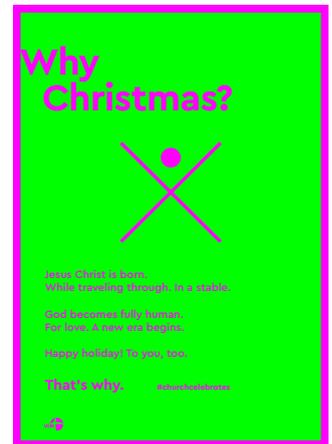
God becomes human. In Jesus. Shows us how we can live. Models love. Forgives the past, allows a new beginning. Revives our hope for a different world. Teaches us how to pray.

God becomes human. For love. Because he loves people so much that he is driven to them. He simply cannot bear to be without them.

God becomes human.

That is why we celebrate Christmas. And we invite you to celebrate with us.

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