

## Away in a Manger

One of the lesser-known verses of the popular Christmas hymn, "Away in a Manger," includes the following lyrics:

*The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.*

Historically speaking, there is not a single author to whom the song is attributed, but there is one detail that I feel can be known for certain. This is that at the time of writing the above verse, the composer did not have children. If he or she did have children, they would know that any newborn baby that is woken in the middle of the night will absolutely cry. Yes, Jesus was without sin (2 Corinthians 5:21), but the good news for children and adults alike is that crying is not a sin.

It is incredibly important for each one of us to remember exactly what happened in that stable on the day of Jesus' birth. The key to this understanding is found in what the angel says to Joseph in Matthew 1:20-21.

*Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.*

*He will save His people...* The only way that God could save His people was to become like his people. Speaking of Jesus, the Hebrews writer says, *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).

If "no crying he makes," if Jesus is just a convincing "humanoid," then what was on the cross? Did it really die? And if Jesus did not live as a real human, overcoming sin and temptation in that form, what gives us hope?

If we believe the Bible, then we believe that Jesus was fully human, just like those that he came to save. He was born into the world like a human. He felt fear and pain as a human. He cried the same as everyone else. If we could go back to that manger and see and hear the birth of Jesus, I believe each of us would find comfort in the sound of a crying baby. After all, a baby with healthy lungs is a token of good things to come.

Josh

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# LEACHVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST



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## Sunday, December 24, 2017

<p><b>Prayer List Updates</b></p> <p>Darlene Hetler – improving; good report from heart doctor</p> <p>Pat Bolar – transferred to Belle Meade in Paragould</p> <p>Baileigh Vires – has flu; got fluids in ER yesterday but is home now</p> <p>Raymond Lasley – leaving for Panama January 13</p> <p><b>Birthday</b></p> <p>Pat Bolar                      December 25 David Penix                    December 25 Aaron Cagle                    December 27 Holly McKnight                December 29</p> <p><b>Anniversary</b></p> <p>Larry and Joy Brooks December 24</p>	<p><b>Upcoming Events</b></p> <p>today                      regular morning services; no evening services</p> <p>today                      leave for meal at Mission Outreach 3:30 pm</p> <p>January 9                ladies' Bible study resumes; children welcome 10 am</p> <p>January 10                After School Special resumes</p> <p><b>Announcement</b></p> <p>Monette church of Christ has asked for our help with Christmas Eve dinner at Mission Outreach in Paragould. The food list is on the back information table, and they also need hats and gloves.</p>	<p><b>Correspondence Course Ministry</b></p> <p>week of December 18-23: 13 lessons graded</p> <hr/> <p><b>December Haiti Needs</b></p> <p>powdered milk deodorant</p> <hr/> <p><b>Last Week's Attendance</b></p> <p>Sunday morning: 54 Sunday evening: 36 Wednesday evening: 35</p>
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## Weekly Service Assignments

Sunday Morning	Bible class: 9:45 am worship: 10:45 am	Sunday Evening	6:00 pm
First Prayer	Larry Brooks	First Prayer	Joel Ingram
Announcements	Rudi Cagle	Closing Prayer	Josh Vires
Second Prayer	Ken Beach	Lord's Supper	Raymond Lasley Rudi Cagle
Scripture Reading	Raymond Lasley	Wednesday Evening	7:00 pm
Lord's Supper	1. Matt Greer                      3. Rudi Cagle 2. Raymond Lasley                4. Justin Beach	First Prayer	Rudi Cagle
Closing Prayer	Jerry Bolar	Closing Prayer	Larry Towell