



Christmas Eve (written by
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Manger

Luke 2:6-7

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in clothes and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (NIV 1984)

A newborn baby's hands. Have you ever watched them move? The skinny little fingers stretch out slowly as if the baby is not quite sure what they are for yet, but oh,

it feels so good to move them! They have been cramped up in a fist-clench for months!

The same thing happens when a sprouting leaf pushes slowly out of a tiny, cramped seed and up through the ground—the first evidence of what will one day be a strong, tall tree.

The shoot from the stump of Jesse sprouted. A baby was born in Bethlehem in a barn. His first bed was a cattle-feeding trough. His little hands stretched out slowly in the crib. Did anyone who watched him know what those hands would be for?

This baby's hands would one day heal sick people. They would bless children. They would wash the feet of others. They would be pierced with nails as a punishment for crimes they never even committed. They would lie still and lifeless in a grave. They would be held up in blessing when raised back to life and ascending to heaven to be with God.

The wait is over. God has surely kept his promises.

Prayer: Lord, remind us to be thankful at Christmas. Amen.