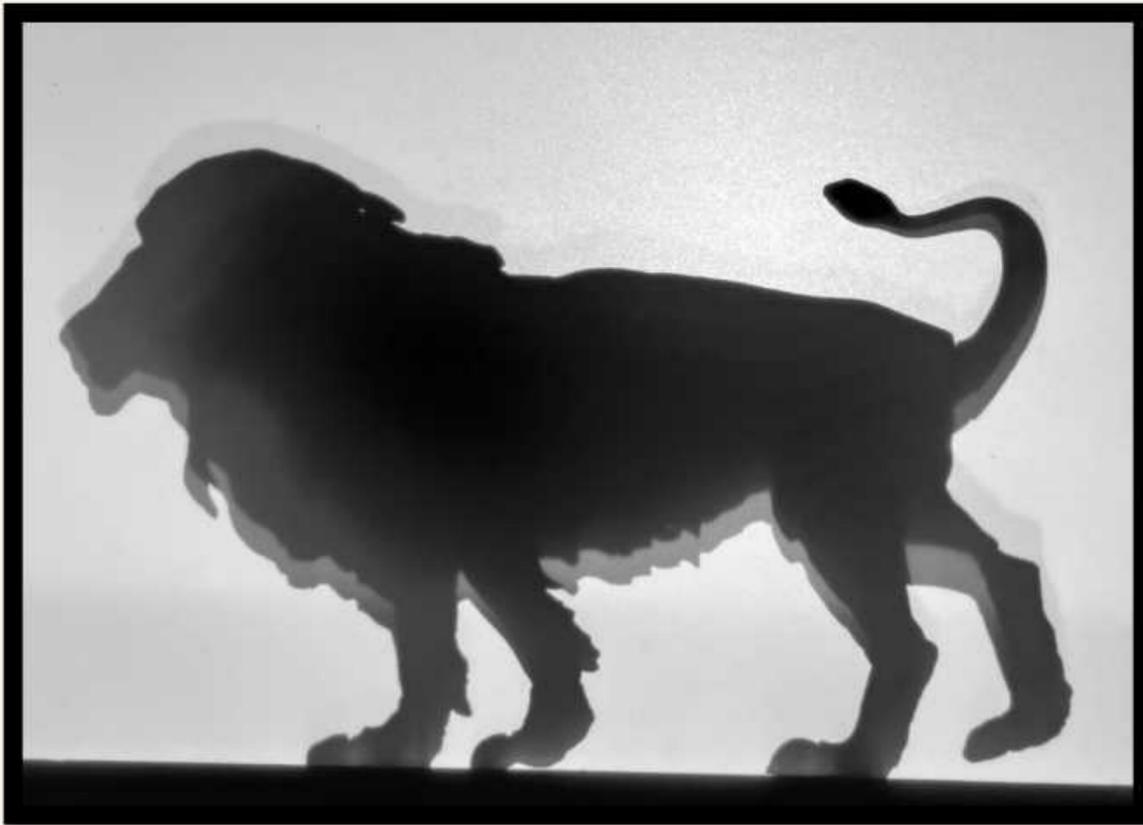


A detailed oil painting of the Nativity scene. The Virgin Mary is kneeling on the right, her hands clasped in prayer, looking down at the infant Jesus who lies in a wooden manger filled with straw. The infant is wrapped in white swaddling clothes. To the left, Joseph is kneeling, also with his hands clasped, looking at the baby. The background is a rustic, stone-walled interior with a wooden beam on the left. The lighting is soft and focused on the baby, creating a sense of divine presence.

# **The Shadows of Heavenly Things and the Substance of Christmas**

Hebrews 8:5, Colossians 1:15, 2:17, John 1:1-18

December 21, 2025  
New Baptist Church



## What is a Shadow?

- A shadow is a shape or outline of something real.
- A shadow has the appearance of the object but lacks its substance.

## Is it possible to learn things from their shadows?

Yes, a person can know things about an item from its shadow, but what is knowable is limited.

**If you really want to know what a lion is like,  
you would need to meet a real lion.**





**What do these five things all have in common?**

All five of these items are shadows of Jesus.

**“They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things.” Hebrews 8:5**

**What do these shadows tell us of God?**

- **The Lion** - The Lord Reigns Over all of Creation. (Tribe of Judah)
- **The Bread** - The Lord provides for our daily needs.
- **The Ark of the Covenant** - The Lord provides a way of forgiveness through atonement.
- **The Bronze Snake** - The Lord provides a means of salvation.
- **The Torah** - The Lord is good, holy, just, and Righteous. He is full of loving kindness and mercy.

***To truly know who God is and what He is like, a person must meet Him.***



**“They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things.” Hebrews 8:5**

**“These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.”  
Colossians 2:17**

***To truly know who God is and what He is like, a person must meet Him.***

When Jesus died upon the cross, the physical veil in the temple was torn, indicating that a person, through Christ, can enjoy the presence of God.

**When Jesus was born in the manger, the spiritual veil was torn, and the full substance of God became flesh.**

**John 1:1–3, 14** “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

... 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.”

**When Jesus was born in the manger, the spiritual veil was torn, and the full substance of God became flesh.**

**John 1:1–3, 14** “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.  
... 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.”

**Immanuel, God is With Us!**



Many people love the Christmas season -  
they love the gifts, decorations, and the music, but they miss the  
very one that all of *these things are but a shadow of* -  
**Immanuel, Jesus the Christ.**



**Get out of the shadows and meet Jesus.**

# Get out of the shadows and meet Jesus.

**1. Meeting Jesus begins with knowing and accepting that the child in the manger is “the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation (Colossians 1:15).”**

- He is the Lion of Judah who conquers sin and death.
- He is the Bread of Life who satisfies our deepest hunger of our soul.
- He is the mercy seat, where God's justice and mercy meet through His atoning sacrifice.
- He is the bronze serpent lifted up to save all who look to Him in faith.
- He is the living Word, the fulfillment of all that the Law and the Prophets pointed toward, and is the very substance of God.

**2. And meeting Jesus requires you to trust Him.**

Trusting Him involves turning from our own sin (repentance), accepting what he has done for you (forgiveness) and abiding in what he has promised (eternal life).

*It is through faith (Accepting and Trusting Him) that you, through the presence of His Spirit, step out of the shadows and meet Him, the ONE who is real.*

Immanuel, God With Us!

