



*An Advent
wrapped in Love.*

A Mysterious Scene at Christmas

By Rev Richard Smith

One Christmas eve there appeared under the tree a mysterious scene. These strange looking characters and animals were gathered around a humbled mother on her knees, a proud looking father standing, and a baby lying peacefully at the center.

But as a twelve-year old boy I saw a collection of "action" figures to be played with. Now as time has gone by I have returned to that nativity drama through Seminary, art, collections from around the world as well as artistic representation. It is now through the season of Advent, a time of anticipation, we are invited to ponder what our faith stories ask of us. For me it is a time of expectation of new life in the midst of danger, a time to pause and reflect. Howard Thurman, a spiritual adviser to Martin Luther King Jr., has written a poem entitled "This is the Season of Promise" which ends with these words:

*Listen to the long stillness
New life is stirring
New dreams are on the wing
New hopes are being readied:
Mankind is fashioning a new heart
Mankind is forging a new mind
God is at work.*

