



Epiphany January 6, 2022

**Our manger scene comes down
on the Eastern Orthodox 12th day of Christmas
also the anniversary of the US Capitol Insurrection.
There are no photos or recorded news reports from Bethlehem
like we saw last January 6 when we turned TV
to watch the ceremonial Electoral College reports.
A second Christmas hardly anyone notices...
when wise men finally arrive to honor Jesus
Matthew's own version of God's great coming out event.
Paul nor Mark nor John even mention Jesus' birth.
Luke recreates the poetic Mary and the Manger stories...
with competing ideas adding titles as decades passed.
There were no witnesses to call
to testify under oath what Jesus said or did
or what happened if it did happen.
My scene blends infant and parents and a shepherd
the 3 late-arriving Wise Men or Kings...
and hasn't Santa been there a long, long time?
I have added mammoths, dire wolves, short-faced bears,
lions, ground sloths, and saber-toothed cats
all 10,000 to 50,000 years ago in downtown Los Angeles!
*"Many of the ice age animals found in the LaBrea Tar pits
are still around today...dogs, gray foxes, bobcats, jaguars,
rabbits, weasels, raccoons and mice."*
Surely the same life source from which they came
is the same as the unseen Wonder
from which our species came.
I wanted to add the Christmas Day space telescope...
we mere humans on our speck of a planet
able to views of the universe beyond imagination.
*"The heavens are telling the glory of God...
Without a sound or word, silent in the skies
their message reaches out to all the world."*
I wonder!**