A close-up photograph of hands holding a white cloth, likely representing the shroud of Turin. The hands are positioned on the right side of the frame, with fingers gently gripping the fabric. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white fabric. The text "Holding Jesus Close" is overlaid on the left side of the image in a dark red, serif font.

Holding
Jesus
Close

Can you say awkward?






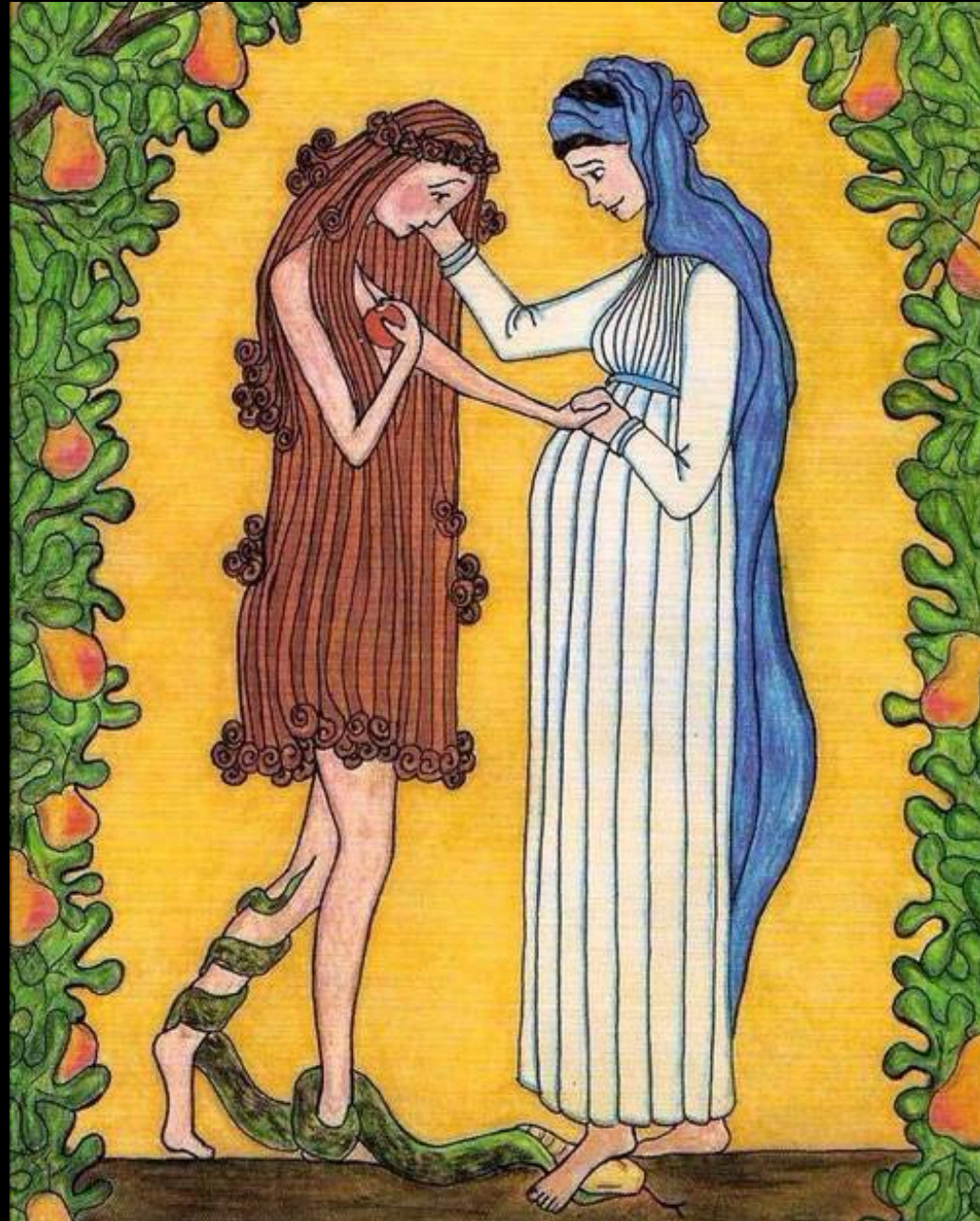






A close-up photograph of hands holding a white cloth, likely a burial shroud, against a background of draped white fabric. The hands are positioned in the upper right quadrant, with fingers gently gripping the fabric. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white fabric that creates a sense of depth and texture. The overall lighting is warm and soft, highlighting the delicate nature of the cloth and the careful handling by the hands.

Holding Jesus Close



⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”

¹⁰ He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

¹¹ And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

¹² The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

Genesis 3:8-13 NIV

In this first Christmas message, we see the Reason, the Revelation and the Result of Christ's birth...

14 So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,
"Cursed are you above all the livestock
and all the wild animals!
You will crawl on your belly
and you will eat dust
all the days of your life.

15 And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head,
and you will strike his heel."

Genesis 3:14-15

¹² Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned— Romans 5:12

In this first Christmas message, we see the Revelation of
Christ's birth...

15 And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers..."

Genesis 3:15a

¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a
sign: The virgin will be with child and will give
birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

In this first Christmas message, we see the Result of Christ's birth...

15 ...he will crush your head,
and you will strike his heel.”

Genesis 3:15b

¹⁵ And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. Colossians 2:15

Message of Grace!

¹⁵ But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!

Romans 5:15



