

### **A Worship Minute....**

-from *The Cradle to the Cross* by Jeff Doles

A manger is not enough, though, not even one that holds the Bread of Life. It is only a beginning. The fulfillment lies in another wooden fixture. Looming in the midnight shadows of the manger, there is the figure of the Cross. Like the manger, the Cross is a wooden structure large enough to hold the Bread of Life.

The manger is a symbol of joy, but it is a very peculiar joy. For even as we celebrate Christmas, we know that the day of Crucifixion is also at hand. But it was for the joy that was set before Him, the Bible says that Jesus endured the Cross, despising the shame (Hebrews 12:2). He pursued that joy from the manger all the way to the Cross.

As we consider the Babe in the manger, it is difficult for us to imagine the hands and feet of this tiny infant being driven through with large spikes and nailed against the rough-hewn timbers of the Cross. Yet, it was exactly that for which they were destined.