

## Inhabiting the Text of Scripture through Imagination

### The starting point

- We all do it to some extent or another – nativity story
- Often populated by images shaped by artwork through the ages



• Copy of Leonardo Da Vinci: The Last Supper (c.1520)

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- We all do it to some extent or another – nativity story
- Often populated by images shaped by artwork through the ages
- An ancient form of Jewish interpretation
- Also key in Ignatian Spirituality

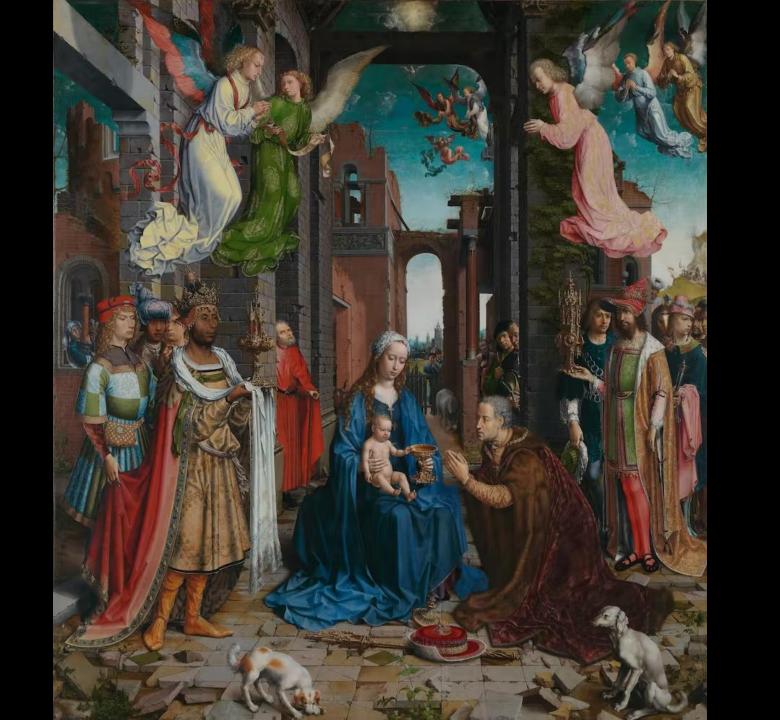
Two ways of entering Scripture through imagination

Pre-scholarship

Post-scholarship

#### Prescholarship

 Can end up viewing the text through the lens of our own world



#### Postscholarship

 Can become paralyzed by indecision and the variety of options

# What does imaginative reading of the Bible teach us?

- Reading between the cracks –
  who is not in our mental picture?
- Emotional engagement the realm of emotion for understanding scripture
- Creating a backstory rather than a snapshot
- Actual people with lives and experience