

PROPHETS FORETOLD*

The details of Jesus' appearance and birth were long foretold by prophets. God's people waited in faith.

SCRIPTURE†	MUSIC‡
<p>Genesis 3:14–15 Genesis 49:10 Numbers 24:17 Isaiah 9:2–7 Isaiah 11:1–5 Isaiah 40:1–5 Micah 5:2 (See Scripture collage below for worship service reading.)</p>	<p>Celtic Advent Carol (Martin) SATB Come, Christians, Join to Sing Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus Emmanuel Shall Come (Forrest) SATB Joy Has Dawned O Come, O Come, Emmanuel O Little Town of Bethlehem[§] Open Our Eyes, Lord See the Christ Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus (Refrain)</p>

SCRIPTURE COLLAGE

Today's reading is taken from multiple passages in Isaiah and Micah. ** “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call His name Emmanuel. ... But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel—whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. ... For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given. ... Who hath believed our report? And to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant and as a root out of a dry ground; He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. ... [But] the government shall be upon His shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Father [of Eternity], the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end upon the throne of David and upon his kingdom, to order it and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.”

* Theme is **first** in the **Advent** Christmas worship series.

† Daily preparatory readings shown in **bold**.

‡ Published choral and vocal music shown in **bold**.

§ “The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.”

** Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2; Isaiah 9:6–7; Isaiah 53:1–2



PRESENTING & PROMOTING THIS THEME

GIVING GIFTS

There are different ways people give gifts. Perhaps you find a thing on sale and decide whom to give it to. Another way is to make a plan and save for the gift and shop specifically with a person in mind. It takes a special knowledge of the person to pick something they may not even know they wanted, but it exactly meets a need. Long before we even existed, God made the plan and gift of salvation to meet our need, and showed us through the prophets that he was planning this from the beginning. The prophets reveal how intricate and detailed the plan was.

Promotional Post: There are different kinds of gift-giving. Sometimes we see it on the shelf (or on sale) and decide who to give it to. But other times, we think of the person—what they want, what they need—and hatch an elaborate plan to give them the perfect gift.

That's what God did when He sent His Son. The elaborate plan was foretold down through the ages by His prophets. He was preparing to send the perfect Gift to all mankind.

Use these prophetic passages to prepare for worship this Sunday: [Scripture Readings]

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

Use the ancient Christmas carol to highlight Old Testament prophecies of Messiah.

Before the first records of Jesus' birth in the Gospels, we read in the Old Testament of appearance of Messiah. He was long foretold by the prophets of Israel. There are hundreds of prophecies about the birth, life, and death of Jesus. His appearance on this earth was the result of God's sovereign planning throughout all of human history.

One of our oldest Christmas carols, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," echoes those Old Testament prophecies with several special names for Jesus...

O come, thou Rod of Jesse free thine own from Satan's tyranny. [Briefly explain concept from this passage...] **Isaiah 11:1-2** And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: and the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home. [Briefly explain concept from this passage...] **Isaiah 22:22** And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.

The carol, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," dates all the way from the 9th century, or earlier. Its words echo the prayers of generations of Israelites awaiting their Messiah, who would deliver them from their oppression—not just from their captors, but from Satan's tyranny, the bondage of sin.

Today we worship our God, who foretold the coming of the Redeemer through His servants. We'll sing that carol now together. But we sing it with joy in worship, knowing that Emmanuel *has* indeed come! (Caleb French)



NORTHWEST VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

nwvbc.org | 623-581-3115 | 4030 W Yorkshire Drive, Glendale, AZ 85308