



Isaiah 7:14

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”

During Advent, our stories have been messages from Bible Prophets.

Today’s message is from the book of the prophet Isaiah. In Chapter 7, Isaiah says “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”

Immanuel means ‘God is with us’

Immanuel, or “God with us”, that we have been waiting for, is the baby Jesus born at Christmas.

Our Leaf for this week and for Christmas is LOVE.

This year is two thousand twenty-two. We actually count time by Jesus’ life, so the first Christmas happened about two thousand twenty-two years ago.

Back then, a week before Christmas like it is now, a young woman named Mary and her husband Joseph are expecting a baby very soon. They know this baby will be the Son of God, because angels have announced this to Mary and to Joseph. God has prepared Mary and Joseph to be Jesus’ parents.

They live in a town called Nazareth.

But just before Mary is ready to have her baby, there is a new law. Everyone must travel to their home city to be counted and taxed.

So Joseph and Mary have to leave Nazareth and travel to Bethlehem, because Joseph is a descendent of King David and David’s family home city was Bethlehem.

When Mary and Joseph arrive in Bethlehem, The town is overflowing with people! There is no place for Mary and Joseph to stay. Finally, an innkeeper lets them sleep in the animals’ barn.

So now our story is like our manger scene. Mary and Joseph in a barn with animals and with angels watching over them.

That night, Mary has her baby. Jesus, the Son of God, the Immanuel, is born in Bethlehem and his first bed is a manger of hay.

God’s angels tell the good news to shepherds nearby. The shepherds leave their fields and come to Bethlehem to worship the baby Jesus. They tell everyone they see about the special baby and about the wonderful thing that God has done.

This is what the prophets had foretold so long ago.

God has sent his very own Son to be born on earth and to live with us. Jesus’ birth brings the message of God’s LOVE at Christmas and always.

