

# The Parish of Saint John the Divine

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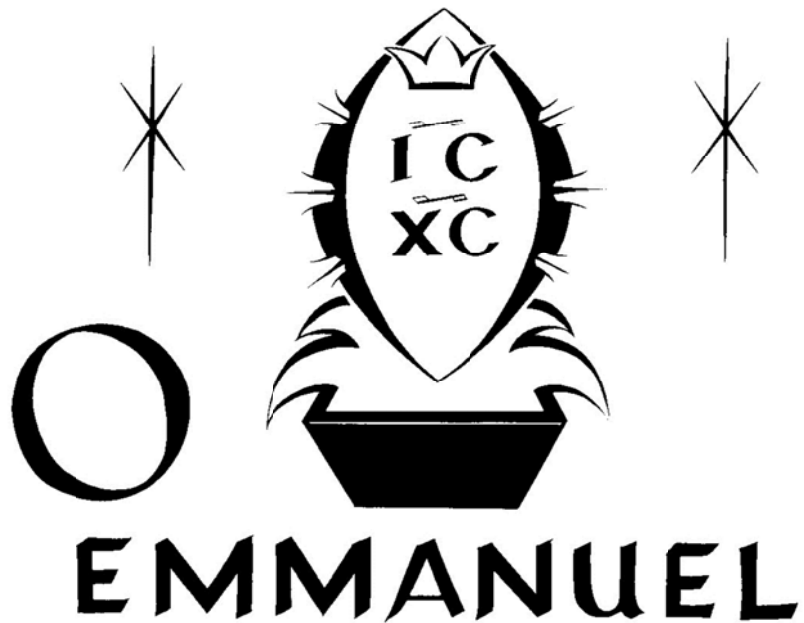
*Our primary purpose as the Church of St. John the Divine in downtown North Bay is to be a welcoming, nurturing and worshipping community which demonstrates by word and deed the love of Jesus Christ for all creation.*

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## Advent Sunday

### *A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*

November 27, 2011 ✦ 10:00 AM



## A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

### *Based upon the Great "O" Antiphons*

- Sit** Organ Prelude: "Wachet Auf" (Johann Sebastian Bach)
- Stand** Procession of the Choir
- Stand** Carol: "Come thou Redeemer of the earth" *(sung by all)*

Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,  
And manifest thy virgin birth:  
Let ev'ry age adoring fall;  
Such birth befits the God of all.

Begotten of no human will,  
But of the Spirit, thou art still  
The Word of God in flesh arrayed,  
The promised fruit to man displayed.

The virgin womb that burden gained  
With virgin honour all unstained;  
The banners there of virtue glow;  
God in his temple dwells below.

Forth from his chamber goeth he,  
That royal home of purity,  
A giant in twofold substance one,  
Rejoicing now his course to run.

From God the Father he proceeds,  
To God the Father back he speeds;  
His course he runs to death and hell,  
Returning on God's throne to dwell.

O equal to thy Father, thou!  
Gird on thy fleshly mantle now;  
The weakness of our mortal state  
With deathless might invigorate.

Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,  
And darkness breathe a newer light,  
Where endless faith shall shine serene,  
And twilight never intervene. ✦

**Stand** Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour forth righteousness: **Let the earth be fruitful, and bring forth a Saviour.**

**Stand** Bidding Prayer

Beloved in Christ, we have gathered again at the beginning of an Advent season: a season of waiting upon the Lord, who once came in the flesh as Saviour and Redeemer of the world, and who will come again in glorious majesty to establish a rule of justice, peace, and righteousness for all peoples.

Let us listen carefully to the readings, which prophesied the first coming of Emmanuel—"God With Us." And remembering the promises fulfilled in the past, let us find within ourselves a renewed sense of the presence of the One whose life and kingdom dwells in us.

During this service, let us pray for a renewed vision of God's reign in our midst. Let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which Christ died, and especially in this country, within this city, and in this Parish of Saint John the Divine.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless; the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

**Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.**

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

**Sit** Solo: O Sapientia (sung by cantor)

O Sapientia, quae ex ore Altissimi prodisti,  
attingens a fine usque ad finem,  
fortiter suaviterque disponens omnia:  
veni ad docendum nos viam prudentiae.

[The English translation of this, "O Wisdom," appears below]

**Kneel** Litany

Let us pray.

O Wisdom, that camest out of the mouth of the Most High, reaching from one end to another, firmly and gently ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of understanding.

**Even so, come, Lord Jesus.**

O Adonai, Captain of the house of Israel, who didst appear to Moses in the flame of the burning bush, and gavest him the law on Sinai: Come and deliver us with thine outstretched arm.

**Even so, come, Lord Jesus.**

O Root of Jesse, who standest for an ensign of the people, before whom kings shall shut their mouths, to whom the nations shall seek: Come and deliver us and tarry not.

**Even so, come, Lord Jesus.**

O Key of David, Sceptre of the house of Israel, who openest and no man shutteth, and shuttest and no man openeth: Come and bring forth out of the prison-house him that is bound.

**Even so, come, Lord Jesus.**

O Day-spring from on high, Brightness of Eternal Light, and Sun of righteousness: Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death. **Even so, come, Lord Jesus.**

O King of nations, thou for whom they long, the Cornerstone that makest both one: Come and save thy creatures whom thou didst fashion from the dust of the earth.

**Even so, come, Lord Jesus.**

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the Desire of all nations and their Saviour: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

**Even so, come, Lord Jesus.**

**Sit** Antiphon: O Wisdom (sung by choir)

O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of understanding.

**Sit** First Lesson: Ecclesiasticus 24. 1-8

Wisdom praises herself,  
and tells of her glory in the midst of her people.  
In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth,  
and in the presence of his hosts she tells of her glory:  
'I came forth from the mouth of the Most High,  
and covered the earth like a mist.  
I dwelt in the highest heavens,  
and my throne was in a pillar of cloud.  
Alone I compassed the vault of heaven  
and traversed the depths of the abyss.  
Over waves of the sea, over all the earth,  
and over every people and nation I have held sway.  
Among all these I sought a resting-place;  
in whose territory should I abide?

'Then the Creator of all things gave me a command,  
and my Creator chose the place for my tent.  
He said, "Make your dwelling in Jacob,  
and in Israel receive your inheritance."

**Stand** Carol: #514 "Jesus, Joy of Our Desiring" (*sung by all*)

**Stand** Collect: O Wisdom, your words uttered in the beginning generated a world of beauty and goodness, giving purpose and value to each creature. Instruct us in the way of prudence, that we may nurture the world with justice and joy, that its beauty and goodness may flourish; through the One whom we know is the Wisdom through the ages, even Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Sit** Antiphon: O Adonai (*sung by choir*)

O Adonai and Ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the Law on Sinai: Come with an outstretched arm to redeem us.

**Sit** Second Lesson: Isaiah 43. 1-7

But now thus says the LORD,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:  
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.  
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.  
For I am the LORD your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.  
I give Egypt as your ransom,  
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.  
Because you are precious in my sight,  
and honoured, and I love you,  
I give people in return for you,  
nations in exchange for your life.  
Do not fear, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you;  
I will say to the north, 'Give them up',  
and to the south, 'Do not withhold';  
bring my sons from far away  
and my daughters from the end of the earth—  
everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made.'

**Stand** Carol: #92 "O Day of God, Draw Nigh" (*sung by all*)

**Stand** Collect: O Adonai, Master of the Universe and Ruler of the House of Israel: Your mighty acts have rescued remnants of your people from the midst of slavery, exile, war, and holocaust. Raise your sceptre over us, that the condition of human dignity may be extended to all people in all places; for the sake of Him whom we know as Lord of all, even Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

**Sit** Antiphon: *O Root of Jesse (sung by choir)*  
O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign before the people, before  
whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations will do homage:  
Come quickly to deliver us.

**Sit** Third Lesson: Isaiah 11. 1-6  
A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.  
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

**Stand** Carol: #117 “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” *(sung by all)*

**Stand** Collect: O Root of Jesse, you reach deep down into the darkness of  
the earth and stir the world’s longings for deliverance and hope:  
Raise up within our own lives a spirit of courage and strength, of  
wisdom and insight, that we may add to the coming of the  
Kingdom, through the merits of the One we know as the beginning  
of the ages, even Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Sit** Antiphon: *O Key of David (sung by choir)*  
O Key of David and Sceptre of the house of Israel, you open and  
none can close, you close and no one can open: Come and rescue  
the pris’ners who are in darkness and the shadow of death.

**Sit** Fourth Lesson: Isaiah 22. 20-24

On that day I will call my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiyah, and will  
clothe him with your robe and bind your sash on him. I will  
commit your authority to his hand, and he shall be a father to the  
inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. I will place on  
his shoulder the key of the house of David; he shall open, and no  
one shall shut; he shall shut, and no one shall open. I will fasten  
him like a peg in a secure place, and he will become a throne of  
honour to his ancestral house. And they will hang on him the  
whole weight of his ancestral house, the offspring and issue, every  
small vessel, from the cups to all the flagons.

**Stand** Carol: #98 “Hark the Glad Sound!” *(sung by all)*

**Stand** Collect: O Key of David and Throne of Glory, you open the way to a  
promising future and no one closes; you close the way to a  
formative past and no one opens. Release us and all your peoples  
from the oppressions of the past, that we may face the future with  
boldness and purpose, through the merits of the Son of David,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Sit** Antiphon: *O Dayspring (sung by choir)*

O Dayspring, Splendour of Light everlasting: Come and enlighten  
those who sit in darkness, in the shadow of death.

**Sit** Fifth Lesson: Isaiah 41. 25-27, 42. 1, 5-7

I stirred up one from the north, and he has come,  
from the rising of the sun he was summoned by name.  
He shall trample on rulers as on mortar,  
as the potter treads clay.  
Who declared it from the beginning, so that we might know,  
and beforehand, so that we might say, ‘He is right’?  
There was no one who declared it, none who proclaimed,  
none who heard your words.  
I first have declared it to Zion,  
and I give to Jerusalem a herald of good tidings.



Here is my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the nations.  
Thus says God, the Lord,  
who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the people upon it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:  
I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,  
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;  
I have given you as a covenant to the people,  
a light to the nations,  
to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

**Stand** Carol: #91: "People, Look East! The Time is Near"

**Stand** Collect: O Rising Dawn, you shine with warm brightness and clean freshness, chasing the fearsome shadows of the night away. Enlighten the lives of your people with ideal visions of harmony and mutuality, so that all that is alien may finally join in the fullness of life together, for the sake of Him whom we call the Light of the World, Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Sit** Antiphon: *O King of nations* **(sung by choir)**

O King of nations, the Ruler they long for, the Cornerstone uniting all people: Come and save us all, whom you formed out of clay.

**Sit** Sixth Lesson: Isaiah 45. 8-13

Shower, O heavens, from above,  
and let the skies rain down righteousness;  
let the earth open, that salvation may spring up,  
and let it cause righteousness to sprout up also;  
I the Lord have created it.

Woe to you who strive with your Maker,  
earthen vessels with the potter!  
Does the clay say to the one who fashions it, 'What are you making?'  
or 'Your work has no handles?'



Woe to anyone who says to a father, 'What are you begetting?'  
or to a woman, 'With what are you in labour?'  
Thus says the Lord,  
the Holy One of Israel, and its Maker:  
Will you question me about my children,  
or command me concerning the work of my hands?  
I made the earth,  
and created humankind upon it;  
it was my hands that stretched out the heavens,  
and I commanded all their host.  
I have aroused Cyrus in righteousness,  
and I will make all his paths straight;  
he shall build my city  
and set my exiles free,  
not for price or reward,  
says the Lord of hosts.

**Stand** Carol: #88 "Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus" **(sung by all)**

**Stand** Collect: O King of Nations, your reign spreads through all the lands: you defend the cause of the poor and plead for the wretched of the earth. Come and fashion us into a Commonwealth of free and responsible creatures, that all may discover the depth of meaning and of grace of belonging; in the name of Him we know as the King of Kings, Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

**Sit** Antiphon: *O Emmanuel* **(sung by choir)**

O Emmanuel, our King and our Lord, the Anointed of the nations and their Saviour: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

**Sit** Seventh Lesson: Isaiah 33. 20-22; 7. 14-15

Look on Zion, the city of our appointed festivals!  
Your eyes will see Jerusalem,  
a quiet habitation, an immovable tent,  
whose stakes will never be pulled up,  
and none of whose ropes will be broken.  
But there the Lord in majesty will be for us  
a place of broad rivers and streams,  
where no galley with oars can go,  
nor stately ship can pass.



For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our ruler,  
the Lord is our king; he will save us.  
Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young  
woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him  
Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows  
how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

**Stand** Carol: “Zion’s King shall reign victorious” *(sung by all)*

Zion’s King shall reign victorious;  
All the earth shall own his sway;  
He will make his kingdom glorious;  
He will reign through endless day.  
Nations now from God estrangèd  
Then shall see a glorious light;  
Night to day shall then be changèd,  
Heaven shall triumph in the sight.

Then shall Israel, long dispersèd,  
Mourning seek the Lord their God;  
Look on him whom once they piercèd,  
Own and kiss the chastening rod.  
Mighty King, thine arm revealing,  
Now thy glorious cause maintain;  
Bring the nations help and healing,  
Make them subject to thy reign. ✕

**Stand** Collect: O Emmanuel, Child of Promise and Sign of Hope; you  
come from a distance far beyond our reach, yet to be closer to us  
than we are to ourselves; remain with us in our own days of  
expectation, that we may give birth to what is just, true, beautiful,  
and good; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord who with you  
and the Holy Spirit abides with us, One God now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**Sit** Solo: *O Virgo virginum (sung by cantor)*

O Virgo virginum, quomodo fiet istud?  
Quia nec primam similem visa es nec habere sequentem.  
Filiae Jerusalem, quid me admiramini?  
Divinum est mysterium hoc quod cernitis.

*[O Virgin of virgins, how shall this be?  
For neither before thee was any like thee, nor shall there be after.  
Daughters of Jerusalem, why marvel ye at me?  
The thing which ye behold is a divine mystery.]*

**Sit** Eighth Lesson: St. Luke. 1. 26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in  
Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name  
was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary.  
And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is  
with you.’ But she was much perplexed by his words and  
pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to  
her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God.  
And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you  
will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of  
the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his  
ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and  
of his kingdom there will be no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘How  
can this be, since I am a virgin?’ The angel said to her, ‘The Holy  
Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will  
overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he  
will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her  
old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for  
her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with  
God.’ Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be  
with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from  
her.

**Sit** Magnificat (*sung by cantor & all*)

MY soul doth magnify the Lord, / and my spirit hath rejoiced in  
God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded / the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold, from henceforth / all generations shall call me  
blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me; / and holy is his  
Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him / throughout all  
generations.

He hath showed strength with his arm; / he hath scattered the  
proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat, / and hath  
exalted the humble and the meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things; / and the rich he  
hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy / hath holpen his servant Israel;

As he promised to our forefathers, / Abraham and his seed for  
ever.

GLORY be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without  
end. Amen.

**Stand** Ninth Lesson: St. John 1. 1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and  
the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things  
came into being through him, and without him not one thing came  
into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life  
was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and  
the darkness did not overcome it.



There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came  
as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through  
him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the  
light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into  
the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him;  
yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own,  
and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received  
him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children  
of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or  
of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have  
seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and  
truth.

**Stand** Carol: #89 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (*sung by all*)  
**[An offering will be taken up at this time]**

**Kneel** Vesper Responsory

Judah and Jerusalem, fear not.

**Tomorrow ye shall go forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.**

Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord upon you.

**Tomorrow ye shall go forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

**Tomorrow ye shall go forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.**

Versicle and Response

We wait for thy loving kindness, O God.

**In the midst of thy temple.**

Collects

Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of  
darkness, and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of  
this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in  
great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his  
glorious Majesty, to judge both the quick and the dead, we may  
rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with  
thee and the Holy Spirit, now and ever. **Amen.**

Let us pray.

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly expectation of thy coming: Grant that we, who with joy receive thy only begotten Son as our Redeemer, may without fear behold him when he shall come to be our Judge; even thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

#### Solemn Blessing

Open wide, O Lord, the gates of heaven and visit thy people in peace. **Amen.**

Send forth thy Spirit from on high, that their hearts may be uplifted unto thee. **Amen.**

O Lord, who for our sake wast of a Virgin born, make holy thy people, and bless thine heritage. **Amen.**

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Stand** Carol: #114 “Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending” (*sung by all*)

**Stand** Recession of the Choir

**Sit** Organ Postlude: “Gebet” (Ludwig van Beethoven)

Setting of the “O Antiphons” sung by the choir: Jeffrey Blersch

#### **What is Advent?**

Advent (from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming”) is a season of the Christian church, the period of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus; in other words, the period immediately before Christmas. It is the beginning of the Western Christian year and commences on Advent Sunday.

Latin *adventus* is the translation of the Greek word *parousia*, commonly used in reference to the Second Coming. Christians believe that the season of Advent serves a dual reminder of the original waiting that was done by the Hebrews for the birth of their Messiah as well as the waiting that Christians today endure as they await the second coming of Christ.

With the view of directing the thoughts of Christians to the first coming of Jesus Christ as Saviour, and to his second coming as Judge, special lessons are prescribed for each of the four Sundays in Advent.

#### **What are the “O Antiphons”?**

The “O Antiphons” are many centuries old. The importance of the “O Antiphons” is twofold. First, each one is a title for the Messiah. Secondly, each one refers to the prophecy of Isaiah of the coming of the Messiah. The only exception is the old English addition—the antiphon which refers to the “Virgin of virgins.”

Note that each antiphon asks the Messiah to “**come.**” This is appropriate because this is a season of waiting for the coming of the Messiah. The exception is the additional antiphon referring to the Virgin Mary—because the Messiah *has come* to dwell in her womb.

#### *Notes about a few of the antiphons:*

- “Adonai” means “Lord.”
- “Emmanuel” means “God with us.”
- “Root of Jesse”: Jesse was the father of King David, and Micah had prophesied that the Messiah would be of the house and lineage of David and be born in David’s city, Bethlehem.