

## “Give You a Sign”

*Advent 2022 – “The Hope of the Prophets” – part #4*

*Resource from [umcdiscipleship.org](http://umcdiscipleship.org)*

*Isaiah 7:10-17*

**[Christmas By the Book]** Good morning, friends. I am so glad you are here today or watching online. I promised last week I would have a very short sermon. Truthfully, I’m not going to preach at all. I don’t need to. Today, the children are bringing the message to us. Their program is called, “Christmas by the Book,” and although you won’t see the references in all of their lines, almost all of what they will say to you today is straight out of the Bible.

I find it somehow fitting that the prophet Isaiah told his king, “The Lord himself will give you a sign – a child named Immanuel, God with us.” Today, friends, you are again being given a sign by children, to show how God is with us. So listen closely. Don’t miss what is about to unfold before you, even if it is familiar. For our children are not just retelling a story today – they are entering the story themselves, and they invite you to do the same.

Please join me in prayer. God Almighty, today more than ever, we ask you to bless the children among us, as they help us enter the story of your salvation. Move our hearts as we remember what a powerful moment in history that first Christmas was, one which changed our world forever. May the praise and glory for all that is witnessed here today be yours alone, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**[O Come O Come title]** Let us begin “Christmas by the Book” with one verse of O Come O Come Emmanuel.