



Parent Page Newsletter

For the parents of children in the CGS Atrium

December 2025

A Bud Shall Blossom

In the Level II Atrium, during the season of Advent as the 6-9 year old children are preparing for the greatest gift of Jesus Christ, you may hear these words from the Prophet Isaiah proclaimed:

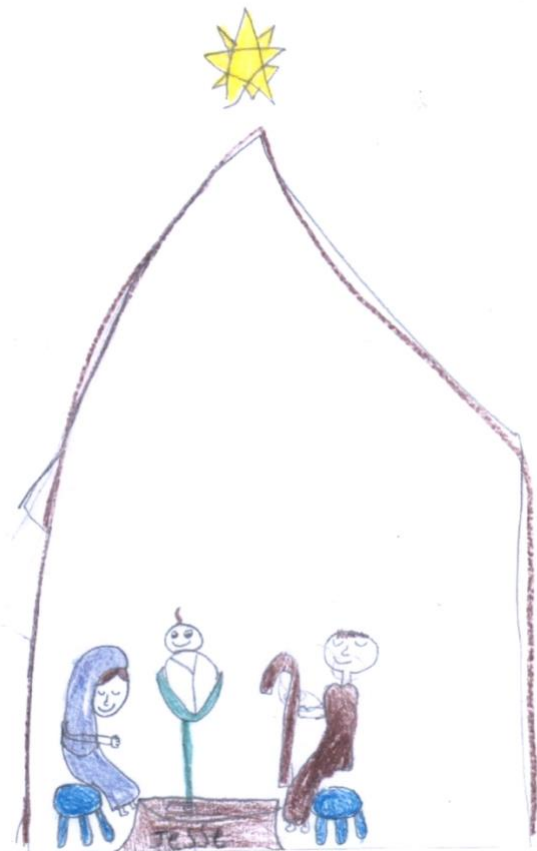
“But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD, and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD” (Isaiah 11:1-3a).

Upon hearing these great prophetic words, you will find the children pondering questions together. What is a shoot? Is it small and fragile? But full of new life? Might you miss it if you aren't looking carefully for it? What is a stump? Is it something that appears to be dead? How does new life spring forth from a stump? Who is Jesse? Who is this shoot that buds and blossoms? How beautiful must this blossom be? Who rests upon this shoot? Do these gifts of the Spirit sound familiar? Are we invited to share in the family of Jesse and to share in the gifts of the Spirit? As you can imagine, these questions and ponderings could be endless.

What about us as parents? What are our questions and ponderings as we encounter this prophecy? During the season of Advent, we often find ourselves scattered and juggling events, shopping, preparations for the holidays, writing and addressing Christmas cards, etc. It's hard to find time to be still and ponder these beautiful words from Scripture. Perhaps we can follow the child of the Atrium and set aside time with our family, even during a meal or car ride, to encounter and break open the words of Isaiah together.

These words of Isaiah, a prophet who lived so long ago, have meaning for us today that we can discover together with our family. What word of Isaiah's prophecy speaks most to you? Where have you found a sprout of new life in the midst of the busyness of this season? How can you cultivate the growth of this sprout? Where do you see Christ blossoming in your life? Where have you seen the gifts of the Spirit working in your life? What gift are you most grateful for? What gift do you long to have? How can we honor this family of Jesse and Jesus, a family that we have been joined to through the gift of Baptism, during this Advent and Christmas season?

May the Spirit of the Lord rest upon you and your family as you prepare to receive the greatest gift of Jesus this Christmas.



Cameron, age 8 (Ohio) Drew the Nativity scene, with Jesus in the "crèche" that is a bud on a shoot; underneath it says "Jesse."