



First Christian Reformed Church of Lynden
From Generation to Generation for the Glory of God

Advent Devotional 2020

Galatians 4:4-5 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son,
born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law,
so that we might receive adoption as sons.

The word advent encompasses several meanings, such as anticipation, expectation, coming, longing, desire, waiting, hope of promises fulfilled. We will explore some of these themes in these advent devotionals. This week we will see these themes in three texts from the prophet Isaiah.

Scripture

Isaiah 11:1-10

¹ There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

² 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 the fear of the Lord.

³ And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire,
and his resting place shall be glorious.

Song

Psalm 59:16 But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress.

[You can Google the hymn to hear it if you would like to sing along.]

Blessed Be The God of Israel (Hymn based on Isaiah 11)

Blessed be the God of Israel
who comes to set us free
and raises up new hope for us:
a Branch from David's tree.
So have the prophets long declared
that with a mighty arm
God would turn back our enemies
and all who wish us harm.

With promised mercy will God still
the covenant recall,
the oath once sworn to Abraham,
from foes to save us all;
that we might worship without fear
and offer lives of praise,
in holiness and righteousness
to serve God all our days.

My child, as prophet of the Lord,
you will prepare the way,
to tell God's people they are saved
from sin's eternal sway.
Then shall God's mercy from on high
shine forth and never cease
to drive away the gloom of death
and lead us into peace.

("Blessed Be the God of Israel" Words by Carl P Daw Jr., , © 1989 Hope Publishing, CCLI# 358926 Streaming License #20317932)

Prayer

II Chronicles 7:14 *If my people, who are called by my Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

Holy Father, thank you for preserving for us these ancient words about the Messiah in your Holy Book. Thank you that what was written seven hundred years before Jesus was completely fulfilled by you when the sent your Son to earth.

Thank you for the revelation of the incarnation, the eternal truth that the Messiah would be both God and man, stump of Jesse and a Son of David, humble and royal, small and regal, insignificant and magnificent. Thank you for showing us what to expect, what He would be like.

Thank you of your faithfulness to all your promises, you have never failed to accomplish all you said you would do. Thank you for your attention to even the smallest of details, then and now. You nurtured and protected the seed, from which came the smallest shoot, then a branch until it was a mighty oak of righteousness. You preserved and protected the line and lineage of David for centuries from which you raised up a Son of David who would sit on his throne and your throne forever.

Thank you for the Spirit of the Lord who rested on your anointed One and fills Him, like a dove and a fire. Thank you for Jesus' promise to send that same Spirit to indwell all who believe in Jesus with the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. May He increase in us in this season.

We look forward to the future when your people will no longer suffer from the wicked. We pray for peace to return to the earth, to a time when all people and animals once lived together in harmony, peace, happiness, and everlasting joy in your presence. Oh Father, fill the earth with the knowledge of you and your ways. Fill us with the fear of the Lord which is the beginning of wisdom. And may the good news of the Gospel of your Son be proclaimed to all the nations that many will come to know Jesus as Savior and Lord. In His name we pray, Amen.