

December 2016

***Advent is the Coming of Our Beginning
Rooted in our Creation***



*A shoot shall come out from the stump 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.
On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal
to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and
his dwelling shall be glorious.*

Isaiah 11: 1-2, 10

A Jesse Tree is an ancient Advent tradition that shows the figures and stories of the Old Testament as leading up to the birth of Christ. Jesse, the father of King David is shown at the root of the tree.

A Jesse-Tree c. 1535,
Attributed to Girolamo Genga

My dear friends,

In Advent we hear readings from the ancient prophecies of Isaiah and also read about John the Baptist. Isaiah impels us to recall our beginnings—our nature as beloved children of God who have rebelled and often gone astray. John the Baptist points directly at Jesus and says “This one is the Son of God, and he will take away your sins.” He is your future.

Advent is an invitation to move into our future. Walter Brueggemann, a prominent theologian, said “Advent is our decision to trust the new wind against the hopeless stump of what has failed.” Advent is our opportunity to move boldly into our future, into the new life that God has prepared for us. Join with me in this exciting season, as we welcome the Christ Child into the world and into our hearts.

Your sister in Christ,
Mother Bonnie+