



Advent Day 4 (written by Deb Bakken)

An Ark and A Rainbow

Genesis 8:18-22

So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. All the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground and all the birds-everything that moves on the earth-came out of the ark, one kind after another. Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: "Never again will I curse the ground because of man, even though every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done. As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease. (NIV 1984)

Are you afraid of water? Would you be afraid if your whole yard was covered? Would you be afraid if the water was halfway up your bedroom windows and pouring into your house?

People in Noah's time were not afraid of water. They lived in the desert. Noah was building a big ship in his back yard, and his neighbors probably thought he was crazy. God had told Noah that he would send a flood to destroy the wicked earth. Noah told his neighbors what God had said, but his neighbors did not believe him. When Noah and his family finally left the ark at the end of the great flood, his neighbors were gone. Only Noah and his family had survived.

God saved the stump of Jesse by saving Noah's family. The waters of the flood killed unbelievers, but Noah's family was safe in the ark, because Noah had believed God. In the promises of Genesis 8, God tells us we don't have to be afraid of a worldwide flood any more. In fact, in the New Testament, Peter compares Noah's ark to the waters of our baptism. Just as Noah's family was saved by God in the ark during the flood, we are saved by God in our baptism.

Prayer: Thank you, God, for saving the stump of Jesse. Thank you for saving me in my baptism. Amen.