



Advent Day 1 (written by Deb Bakken)

Isaiah 11:1-3a A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD—and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. (NIV 1984)

Have you ever seen branches growing out of a dead stump? God makes branches like that grow. God promised to make a branch grow from Jesse's dead trunk. Jesse was the father of King David. The ruling line of David's family tree ended when Jerusalem was destroyed by the king of Babylon. The stump was dead. But God made a special Ruler grow out of the dead stump. Jesus, the Son of God, was also a descendant of Jesse and King David. He is called the King of Kings. He rules forever and ever. Because of Jesus, God makes us grow like shoots out of dead stumps. In Colossians 2:13, God says, "When you were dead in your sins, . . . God made you alive with Christ." He forgave us all our sins. We are happy to be living shoots from dead stumps!

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for sending the shoot out of Jesse's stump. Make us happy to celebrate the birth of the Savior who forgave us all our sins. Amen.