

## Advent Day 2 (written by Deb Bakken)



### The World

Genesis 1:26-31 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground-everything that has the breath of life in it-I give every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw all that he had made and it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning-the sixth day. (NIV 1984)

Do you remember summer? The yard is full of colorful flowers. Crickets are singing, birds are chirping, and you can smell someone's barbecue grill. This is nice. It would be great if you could enjoy these things all the time. In most parts of the world, though, summer is followed by fall, and fall is followed by a cold, dark winter.

God made a world where people could be happy and comfortable all the time. God wanted people to enjoy his creation. Because of sin, the world today is not as perfect as the world God created. It is still a beautiful world, though. It is filled with gifts that God gives us to enjoy.

Sometimes we are tempted to complain about God's gifts. The weather is too cold. Or the food we have is not fun to eat. Our Christmas vacation may be too short. We'd like more clothes or better toys. When we are tempted to complain, let us remember what God says about his gifts to us: "It was very good."

Prayer: Lord, help us to be thankful when we forget about your goodness. Remind us to look to your Word to show us your love to us every day of our lives. Amen.