

ADVENT 2020: WEEK ONE

Hope

First Sunday of Advent:
Light One Candle



29

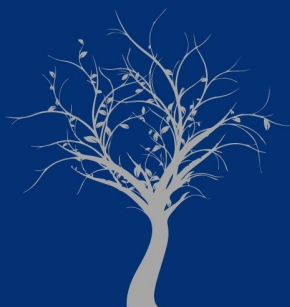


The Daughters of Zelophehad

Numbers 27:1-11

30

Ruth and Naomi
Ruth 1-4

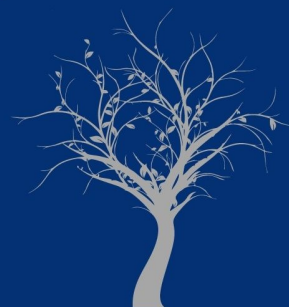


Hannah, Elkenah & Samuel

1 Samuel 1-3

02

The Friendship of David & Jonathan
1 Samuel 18-20



03



Nathan, Advocate of Justice

2 Samuel 11:1-12-15

04

Lydia, The Woman of Purple
Acts 16:13-15



05



Zerubbabel Rebuilds the Temple

Ezra 4-6



*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.*

Isaiah 11:1-2 (NRSV)

ADVENT 2020: WEEK TWO

Peace

Second Sunday of Advent:
Light Two Candles



06

Nehemiah Shares Old Stories
Nehemiah 8



07



Agur Prays for Enough
Proverbs 30:7-9

08

Mary and Elizabeth Gather in Joy
Luke 1:39-45



09



Ezekiel and the Dry Bones
Ezekiel 37:1-14

10

The Three Young Men
Daniel 3



11



Daniel and the Lion's Den
Daniel 6

12

Mary's Song
Luke 1:46-55



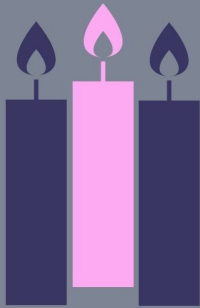
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Isaiah 11:1-2 (NRSV)

ADVENT 2020: WEEK THREE

Joy

Third Sunday of Advent:
Light Three Candles



Good Neighbors

Luke 10:25-37

14

Moses and the Burning Bush

Exodus 2:23-3:22



15



The Strong Women of Exodus

Exodus 1:1-2:10

16

Isaiah Speaks of Comfort

Isaiah 40



17



Faithful Neighbors and Friends

Mark 2:1-12

18

Zacchaeus Responds

Luke 19:1-10



19



The Widow's Might

Mark 12:41-44



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Isaiah 11:1-2 (NRSV)

ADVENT 2020: WEEK FOUR

Love

Fourth Sunday of Advent:
Light Four Candles



20

Walking, Leaping and Praising!
Acts 3:1-10



21



Spirited Stephen
Acts 6-7

22

Dorcas, Faithful Servant
Acts 9:32-43



23



Aquila and Priscilla
Acts 18:1-3; 18-29

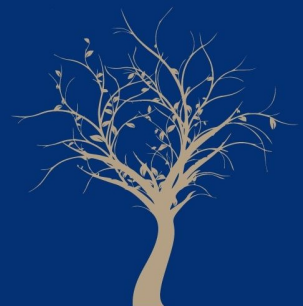
God with us!

Christmas Eve:
Light the Christ Candle



24

Queen Esther
Esther 1-9



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Isaiah 11:1-2 (NRSV)

2020 Advent Calendar

During the season of Advent, Sardis will be creating a Jesse Tree, which features a collection of ornaments representing the saints of our faith. This year's Advent calendar will feature stories of some of our faith sheroes and heroes. In addition, the calendar images feature trees from the Sardis campus. Each day includes a shero/hero to discover, as well as references to their corresponding scripture passage. We hope you'll take time to get to know these faithful women and men, and in the process find rootedness in your connection to the Jesse Tree.

11/29 – The Daughters of Zelophehad (Numbers 27:1-11)

Meet Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah, five determined sisters who stood up for their rights, petitioned Moses, and ensured their father's land would stay in their family for future generations.

11/30 – Ruth and Naomi (Ruth 1-4)

Long before she was David's great grandmother, and the grandmother of Jesse (who got this Advent tree started!), Ruth was a faithful daughter-in-law, whose creativity, love, and hard work ensured security for her family in Bethlehem.

12/1 – Hannah, Elkenah, and Samuel (1 Samuel 1-3)

Hannah and her husband Elkenah longed for a child. When their son Samuel was born, Hannah dedicated him to the Temple, and he would later become an important leader in Israel, thanks in no small part to the love and faithfulness of his mother.

12/2 – The Friendship of David and Jonathan (1 Samuel 18-20)

Long before David became king, he befriended Jonathan, son of King Saul. Ignoring the consequences of royal politics and family strife, Jonathan remained a true friend to David, ensuring his safety.

12/3 – Nathan: Advocate for Justice (2 Samuel 11:1-12:15)

Nathan had the courage to speak truth to power, something that's rare these days.

12/4 – Lydia: The Woman of Purple (Acts 16:13-15)

Considered the first convert to Christianity in Europe, Lydia was a wealthy woman, and dealer of purple dye, who offered hospitality to Paul.

12/5 – Zerubbabel Rebuilds the Temple (Ezra 4-6)

Zerubbabel and others returned from exile in Babylon to rebuild the Jerusalem temple.

12/6 – Nehemiah Shares Old Stories (Nehemiah 8)

When the Temple was finally rebuilt, Nehemiah and Ezra read the ancient scrolls and the people celebrated!

12/7 – Agur Prays for Enough (Proverbs 30:7-9)

Blink and you might miss it. In a simple proverb, Agur prays for enough.

12/8 – Mary and Elizabeth Gather in Joy (Luke 1:39-45)

Mary and Elizabeth, the mothers of Jesus and John, gather in expectant hope of motherhood, and find joy in one another's company.

12/9 – Ezekiel and the Dry Bones (Ezekiel 37:1-14)

Ezekiel, with God's help, brings life back into the valley of the dry bones.

12/10 – The Three Young Men (Daniel 3)

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego live out their faith in a foreign land.

12/11 – Daniel and the Lion's Den (Daniel 6)

Daniel remains faithful even in the face of capital punishment.

12/12 – Mary's Song of Praise (Luke 1:46-55)

Mary accepts her calling, and thanks God for God's mighty works.

12/13 – Good Neighbors (Luke 10:25-37)

A Samaritan reminds us what it means to be a good neighbor.

12/14 – Moses and the Burning Bush (Exodus 2:23-3:22)

Moses stands on holy ground.

12/15 – The Strong Women of Exodus (Exodus 1:1-2:10)

A smart sister, a faithful mother, and cunning midwives are catalysts for liberation.

12/16 – Isaiah Speaks of Comfort (Isaiah 40)

Isaiah brings hope when hope seems an unlikely promise.

12/17 – Faithful Neighbors and Friends (Mark 2:1-12)

A neighbor is healed because of his four faithful and resourceful friends.

12/18 – Zacchaeus Responds (Luke 19:1-10)

Jesus identifies the right man for sharing good news.

12/19 – The Widow's Might (Mark 12:41-44)

A faithful woman demonstrates the true measure of generosity.

12/20 – Walking, Leaping and Praising! (Acts 3:1-10)

The intersection of faith and joy.

12/21 – Spirited Stephen (Acts 6:7)

The first deacon of our faith, and the first martyr, too.

12/22 – Dorcas: Faithful Servant (Acts 9:32-43)

Also called Tabitha, Dorcas was revered by an entire village.

12/23 – Aquila and Priscilla (Acts 18:1-3; 18-29)

Faithful co-workers for Paul and champions of the church at Ephesus.

12/24 – Queen Esther (Esther 1-9)

A good queen saves her people in a story with lots of drama.