

# November 29

*Sunday*

Isaiah 11:1-2

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 might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD.

“Are we there yet?” At some point each of us has asked that question. Most often the question is asked by a small child, about ten minutes into a six-hour car trip. However, we all ask it at some point in one form or another. Is it Friday yet? Is it summer vacation yet? Are we done paying off that debt yet? Have I finished this cancer treatment yet? Is Covid isolation over yet? Let's get there already. This is taking so long.

Isaiah apparently lived 700 years before the birth of Jesus and he promised the world a savior. I imagine the kids of his time asking, “Are we there yet?” At some point in time someone will come and the Spirit of the Lord will rest upon him. He will be full of wisdom and counsel and might and knowledge of the Lord. Now there is something to look forward to! So perhaps the kids asked “Are we there yet?” and the parents answered, as parents do, “Not yet, we will be there soon.” I imagine the great, great grandkids asking, “Remember what Isaiah said, about getting to a time when a Savior will come? Are we there YET?” and the parents replying, near the end of their own hope, “Not yet, we will be there soon.”

Advent is a season of expectation, not of just waiting. We are longing for something. We ask, “Are we there yet?” because “there” is some place we really want to get to! Ancient people longed and expected for at least 700 years. We set aside just four little weeks, but we still wait, and we plan and we think about what is to come. We are awaiting joy. We are awaiting fulfillment. We are expecting Jesus and we already know we will find Him! We pray, “Are we there yet?” And I hear our heavenly father whisper, “Not yet, but start preparing, dear child. We will be there, soon.”

*Jammie Borland*



The Tree of Jesse | Marc Chagall | 1975

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*Shoot from Jesse*