

Second Sunday of Advent, December 4, 2022

## Scripture Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

*Advent: the time to listen for footsteps – you can't hear footsteps  
when you're running yourself. —Bill McKibben*

Have you ever made a phone call to the hospital or clinic, or perhaps a large retailer, and heard the following recorded message? “This call may be monitored or recorded for quality assurance or training purposes.” The voice is not asking for your consent. It is just stating a fact that puts you on notice. Maybe the warning helps some customers be polite; perhaps it protects the business from false claims. Maybe both.

When I read the Bible, however, sometimes I sense that I am the one listening in on a conversation! I hear voices in distress, heated arguments, calls for help and strident questions. I also hear the voices of holy men and women offering encouragement and warning. I hear, too, the voice of God thundering in earthquakes, mountains that shake, wind that roars and prophets who speak. What interesting tales I hear.

Since God walked into the garden seeking conversation with Adam and Eve, God has always enjoyed chatting and interacting with creation. God seems to yearn for conversation.

What better proof than that God visited the world in human form, beginning life as a baby in a manger! The birth of this baby was foretold in prophetic conversations, including today's reading from Isaiah 11. What does this passage say about this child?

*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.  
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.*  
—Isaiah 11:2-4

This is a great conversation to monitor! God is at work comforting those who are in distress. Listen as God offers wisdom, knowledge, justice and righteousness to the poor and the meek. Listen as God speaks! During Advent, we realize that God is still speaking!

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: Ever speaking God, thank you for conversing with us, your humble and lowly creation. Thank you for listening to our cries for help. Thank you for sending the Christ of the Cradle, the spirit of wisdom and knowledge, to guide us in the paths of righteousness. Amen.*

*Wishing you God's Peace on this 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent,  
Lisa & Pastor Ben Metz*

**Daily Bible Readings**

**Sunday:** 1 John 3-5

**Monday:** 2 John, 3 John, Jude

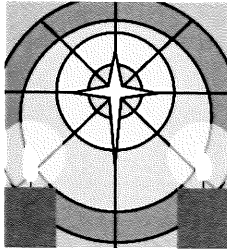
**Tuesday:** Revelation 1-3

**Wednesday:** Revelation 4-6

**Thursday:** Revelation 7-9

**Friday:** Revelation 10-12

**Saturday:** Psalms 139-141



SECOND SUNDAY  
OF  
*Advent*

“For unto us  
a Child is  
born!”

—Isaiah 9:6

# Who Said That?

**Directions:** Match the quotation with the person who said it. Write the number of the correct quotation in the circle beside each person's name.

1. “I have a dream ...”
2. “Give me liberty or give me death.”
3. “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.”
4. “Three may keep a secret, if two are dead.”
5. “It ain’t over ‘til it’s over.”
6. “It has been my experience that people who have few vices have very few virtues.”
7. “Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.”
8. “I think and think for months and years. Ninety-nine times the conclusion is false. The hundredth time I am right.”

- Yogi Berra
- Benjamin Franklin
- Albert Einstein
- Abraham Lincoln
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
- John F. Kennedy
- Patrick Henry
- Neil Armstrong



**Answers:** 1. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., 2. Patrick Henry, 3. Neil Armstrong, 4. Benjamin Franklin, 5. Yogi Berra, 6. Abraham Lincoln, 7. John F. Kennedy, 8. Albert Einstein.