2026 Advent Reflections for the Jesse Tree

Rooted in Promise, Growing in Hope

November 29 – Creation, First Sunday of Advent

Symbol *Earth*

Scripture Genesis 1:31

"God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good."

Reflection

Advent begins by remembering that God is the Creator of all things. Before there was sin, division, or sorrow, there was goodness. The world and every person in it were created out of love. As we wait for Christ, we remember that God's plan has always been to bring creation into harmony with Himself.

Prayer

Creator God, help me see your goodness in the world and in myself. Amen.

November 30 – Adam and Eve

Symbol *Apple*

Scripture Genesis 3:9

"Where are you?"

Reflection

Even after Adam and Eve sinned; God did not abandon them. Instead, He searched for them. Advent reminds us that God still seeks us when we wander and calls us home through Christ.

Prayer

Loving God, help me hear your voice calling me closer to you. Amen.

December 1 – Noah

Symbol *Rainbow*

Scripture Genesis 9:13

"I have set my bow in the clouds."

Reflection

The rainbow is God's sign of covenant and faithfulness. Though storms come, God's promises remain. Christ is the ultimate sign that God never breaks His covenant with humanity.

Prayer

Faithful God, help me trust your promises during every season of life. Amen.

December 2 – Abraham

Symbol *Stars*

Scripture Genesis 15:5

"Look toward heaven and count the stars."

Reflection

Abraham trusted God's promise even when the future seemed impossible. Advent calls us to believe that God is still working beyond what we can see.

Prayer

God of Promise, strengthen my faith when I cannot see the way ahead. Amen.

December 3 – Isaac

Symbol *Ram*

Scripture Genesis 22:14

"The Lord will provide."

Reflection

Isaac's story reveals God's provision and mercy. Advent teaches us that God provides what we most need: salvation through Jesus Christ.

Prayer

Generous God, help me rely on your loving care each day. Amen.

December 4 – Jacob

Symbol *Ladder*

Scripture Genesis 28:16

"Surely the Lord is in this place."

Reflection

Jacob discovered that God was present even when he felt alone. Advent opens our eyes to Emmanuel, God with us.

Prayer

Lord, help me recognize your presence in my daily life. Amen.

December 5 – Joseph

Symbol *Bag of Grain*

Scripture Genesis 50:20

"God intended it for good."

Reflection

Joseph experienced betrayal and hardship, yet God transformed suffering into blessing. Advent reminds us that God can redeem even our most difficult experiences.

Prayer

Redeeming God, help me trust your purpose in every circumstance. Amen.

December 6 – Moses, Second Sunday of Advent

Symbol *Burning Bush*

Scripture Exodus 3:14

"I AM WHO I AM."

Reflection

God called Moses to lead His people to freedom. In Jesus, God comes again to deliver humanity from sin and bring true freedom.

Prayer

Lord, give me courage to follow your call. Amen.

December 7 – Passover

Symbol *Lamb*

Scripture Exodus 12:13

"When I see the blood, I will pass over you."

Reflection

The Passover lamb foreshadowed Christ, the Lamb of God. Advent points toward the Savior whose love protects and frees us.

Prayer

Jesus, Lamb of God, thank you for your saving love. Amen.

December 8 – The Law, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Symbol *Two Stone Tablets*

Scripture Exodus 20:2

"I, the Lord , am your God."

Reflection

God delivered the commandments to Moses. In Jesus, God comes again to save us with the Law of Love.

Prayer

Lord, help me to keep your commandments to love You and my neighbors. Amen.

December 9 – Joshua

Symbol *Trumpet*

Scripture Joshua 1:9

"Be strong and courageous."

Reflection

Joshua trusted God's guidance into the promised land. Advent invites us to move forward with courage, knowing God walks beside us.

Prayer

God of strength, help me face challenges with faith and confidence. Amen.

December 10 – Ruth

Symbol *Sheaf of Wheat*

Scripture Ruth 1:16

"Where you go, I will go."

Reflection
Ruth's loyalty and kindness made her part of God's salvation story. Small acts of faithfulness often become part of a much larger plan.

Prayer
Lord, help me show faithful love to those around me. Amen.

December 11 – Samuel

Symbol *Lamp*

Scripture 1 Samuel 3:10

"Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."

Reflection
Samuel listened attentively to God's voice. Advent is an invitation to slow down and listen for God's guidance amid the noise of the world.

Prayer
Speak, Lord. Help me listen with an open heart. Amen.

December 12 – David, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Symbol Shepherd's Staff and Sheep

Scripture 2 Samuel 7:16

"Your kingdom shall be established forever."

Reflection
God promised that a king from David's family would reign forever. Jesus fulfills that promise as the eternal King whose kingdom is built on justice and love.

Prayer
King Jesus, reign in my heart today. Amen.

December 13 – Solomon, Third Sunday of Advent

Symbol Crown

Scripture 1 Kings 3:9

"Give your servant an understanding mind."

Reflection

Solomon prayed for wisdom rather than power. Advent encourages us to seek God's wisdom as we prepare for Christ's coming.

Prayer

Wise God, guide my decisions and shape my heart. Amen.

December 14 – Elijah

Symbol *Fire on an Altar*

Scripture 1 Kings 19:12

"A sound of sheer silence."

Reflection

Elijah encountered God in stillness. During Advent, moments of quiet can reveal God's presence more clearly than constant activity.

Prayer

Lord, help me find you in silence and prayer. Amen.

December 15 – Isaiah

Symbol Burning Coal

Scripture Isaiah 9:6

"For a child has been born for us."

Reflection

Isaiah proclaimed hope centuries before Christ's birth. God's promises may take time, but they always come to fulfillment.

Prayer

God of hope, help me wait with patient trust. Amen.

December 16 – Jeremiah

Symbol *Heart*

Scripture Jeremiah 31:33

"I will write it on their hearts."

Reflection

God desires more than outward obedience. He seeks transformed hearts filled with love and mercy.

Prayer

Lord, write your love upon my heart. Amen.

December 17 – Daniel

Symbol *Lion*

Scripture Daniel 6:28

"He is a deliverer and a savior, working signs and wonders,"

Reflection

Daniel was saved from great danger. God is always with us and greater than any of our fears.

Prayer

Lord, help me recognize you are greater than my fears and with me always. Amen.

December 18 – Jonah

Symbol *Whale*

Scripture Jonah 2:2

"I called to the Lord, and he answered me."

Reflection

Jonah learned that God's mercy is wider than human expectations. Christ comes for all people, offering forgiveness and new life.

Prayer

Merciful God, help me share your compassion with others. Amen.

December 19 – Micah

Symbol *Star over Bethlehem*

Scripture Micah 5:1

"From you shall come forth one who is to rule."

Reflection

God chose the humble town of Bethlehem for His Son's birth. God often works through unexpected people and places.

Prayer

Lord, help me recognize your greatness in humble beginnings. Amen.

December 20 – John the Baptist, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Symbol *Shell*

Scripture Matthew 3:3

"Prepare the way of the Lord."

Reflection

John called people to prepare their hearts for Jesus. As Christmas approaches, we are invited to clear away whatever keeps us from Christ.

Prayer

Lord, prepare my heart to welcome you fully. Amen.

December 21 – Mary

Symbol *Lily*

Scripture Luke 1:38

"Let it be with me according to your word."

Reflection

Mary's yes changed history. Her trust teaches us how to respond to God's invitation with courage and humility.

Prayer

Blessed Mother, teach me to say yes to God's will. Amen.

December 22 – Elizabeth and Zechariah

Symbol *Tablet with Writing*

Scripture Luke 1:63

"He asked for a tablet and wrote, “John is his name,”

Reflection

Elizabeth and Zechariah were faithful and obedient. Their trust teaches us how to live in hope and obedience.

Prayer

Blessed Mother, teach me to say yes to God's will. Amen.

December 23 – Joseph

Symbol *Carpenter's Tools*

Scripture Matthew 1:24

"Joseph did as the angel commanded him."

Reflection

Joseph's quiet obedience protected the Holy Family and fulfilled God's plan. Faithfulness is often expressed through simple daily acts of trust.

Prayer

St. Joseph, help me follow God faithfully and courageously. Amen.

December 24 – Jesus Christ

Symbol *Manger*

Scripture Luke 2:11

"To you is born this day a Savior."

Reflection

The Jesse Tree reaches its fulfillment in Jesus Christ. Every promise, covenant, prophecy, and hope point to Him. God enters human history as a child. As we celebrate Christmas, may we welcome Christ anew into our hearts and carry His light into the world.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for coming to dwell among us. Fill my heart with your peace, joy, and love. Amen.