

IMAGINE



First Congregational Church of Minnesota
2025 Community Advent Devotional

Welcome. Our Advent theme this year is “Imagine”. During this season, you are invited to join our community as we explore prophetic texts and collectively imagine the new reality we can birth together with God. Each devotional entry includes a prophetic text and a visual response from a member or members of our First Church community. Consider taking a few minutes each day to read the text, examine the related image, and reflect on, ponder, wrestle with, and engage with both written and visual pieces. Consider crafting your own response to the text, visual or otherwise.

Note: The front cover is an image of our bare Advent wreath. As a community, we decorated the wreath in late November, physically representing the imagining process. Throughout the season, we’ll engage each week with the wreath, using it as a means of continuing to imagine how this new reality might be and come to be. See what the wreath has become (so far) at the end of the devotional.



Sunday, November 30th
The First Sunday of Advent
Don Brasted-Maki

*In days to come the mountain of God's
house shall be established as the highest of
the mountains and shall be raised above the
hills.*
Isaiah 2:2a

Monday, December 1st
Ann Sather

*...all the nations shall stream to [the
mountain of God's house]*
—Isaiah 2:2b





Tuesday, December 2nd

Xan Laurence

Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Holy One, to the house of the God of Jacob, that God may teach us God's ways and that we may walk in God's paths."

—Isaiah 2:3a

Wednesday, December 3rd

Bill Lindberg

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of God from Jerusalem

—Isaiah 2:3b





Thursday, December 4th
Jill Griffiths & Maggie George

*God shall judge between the nations and
shall arbitrate for many peoples; they
shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks
—Isaiah 2:4a*

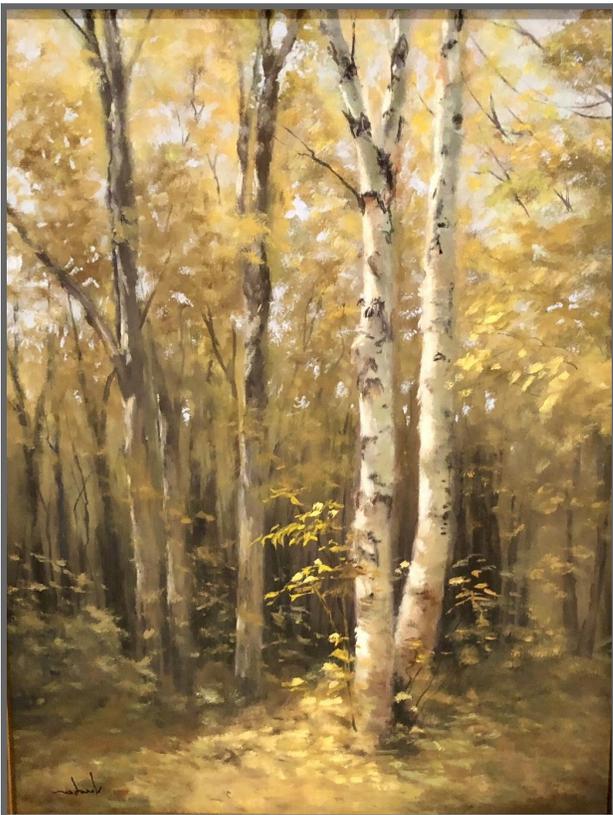


Friday, December 5th
Jia Griffiths & Sky Griffiths



*Nation shall not lift up
sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war
any more.*
—Isaiah 2:4b

Saturday, December 6th
Bill Lindberg & Kim Cooper



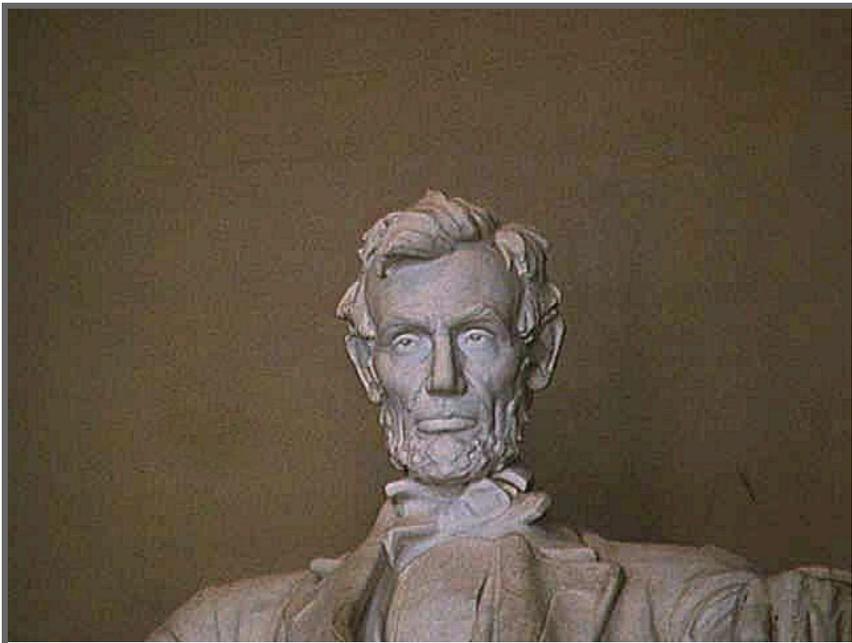
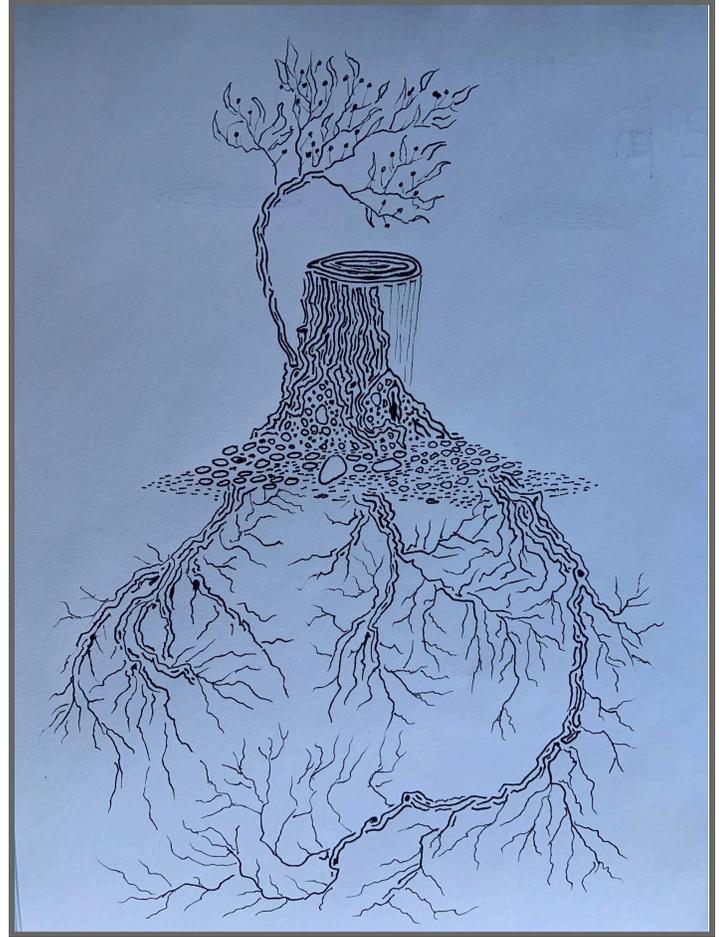
*O house of Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of our God!*
—Isaiah 2:5

Sunday, December 7th

Rob Cooper

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of Jesse's roots.

—Isaiah 11:1



Monday, December 8th

Anonymous

The spirit of the Holy One shall rest on this leader, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of God. His delight shall be in the fear of God. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth.

—Isaiah 11:2-4

Tuesday, December 9th
Arcadia Cooper



*The wolf shall live with
the lamb; the leopard
shall lie down with the
kid; the calf and the lion
will feed together, and a
little child shall lead
them.*
—Isaiah 11:6

Wednesday, December 10th
Byron Almén

*The cow and the bear shall graze; their
young shall lie down together; and the lion
shall eat straw like the ox.*

—Isaiah 11:7



Thursday, December 11th

Sarah Almén

*The nursing child shall play over the hole of
the asp, and the weaned child shall put its
hand on the adder's den.*

—Isaiah 11:8



Friday, December 12th

Nyx Nagel

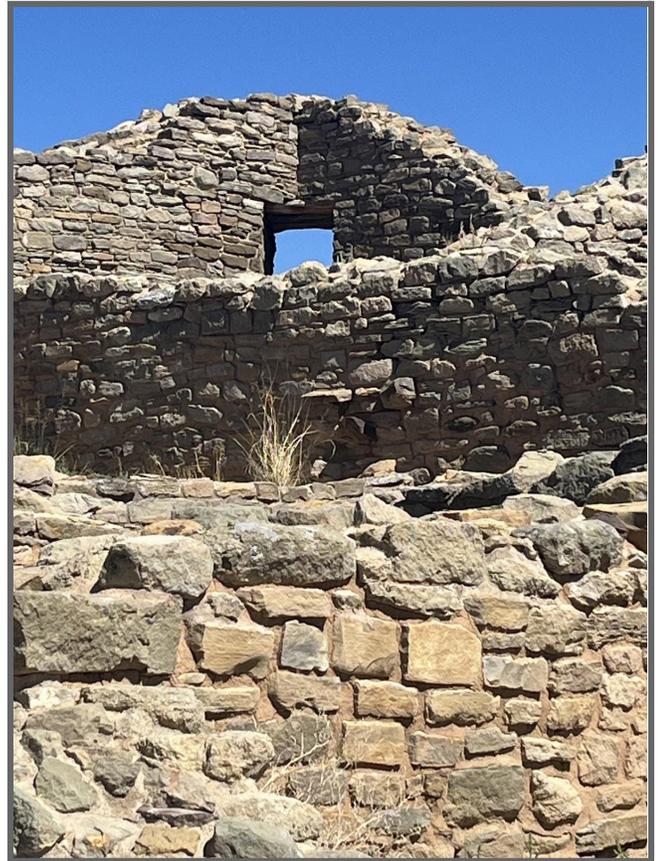
*They will not hurt or
destroy on all my holy
mountain, for the earth
will be full of the
knowledge of our God
**as the waters cover
the sea.***

—Isaiah 11:9



Saturday, December 13th
Kate Wyngaard-Niccum

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious
—Isaiah 11:10



Sunday, December 14th
The Third Sunday of Advent
Greg Hubinger

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus. It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Holy One, the majesty of our God.

—Isaiah 35:1-2

Monday, December 15th
Sandy Johnson



*Strengthen the weak hands and make
firm the feeble knees
—Isaiah 35:3*

Tuesday, December 16th
Jill Griffiths

*Say to those who are of a
fearful heart, "Be strong, do
not fear! Here is your God.
God will come with
vengeance, with terrible
recompense. God will come
and save you."
—Isaiah 35:4*



Wednesday, December 17th

Jane McBride

*Then the eyes of the blind
shall be opened, and the
ears of the deaf shall be
opened; then the lame
shall leap like a deer, and
the tongue of the
speechless sing for joy.
—Isaiah 35:5-6a*



Thursday, December 18th

Ann Sather



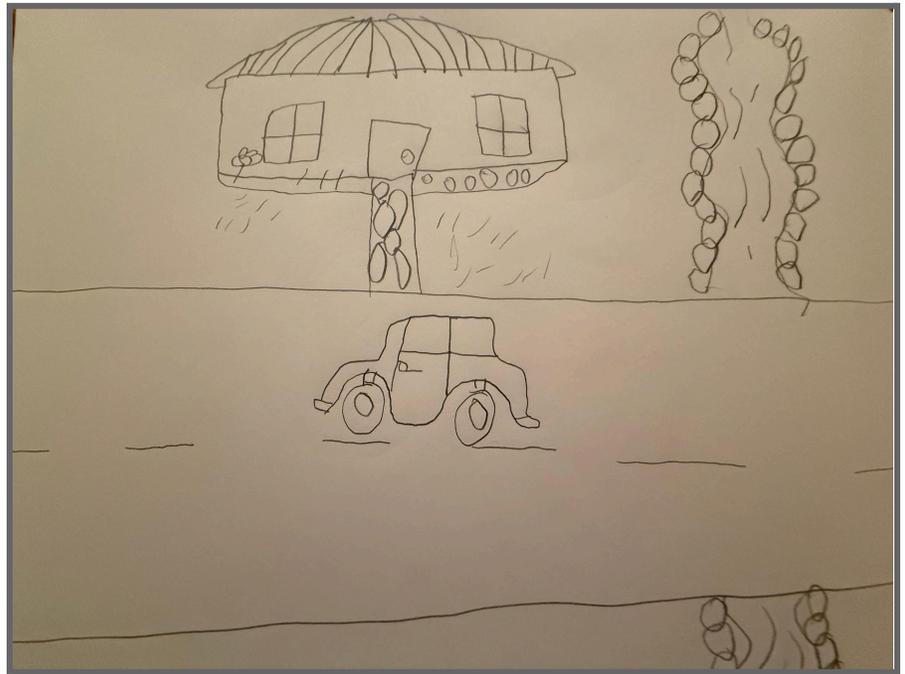
*For waters shall break
forth in the wilderness
and streams in the
desert; the burning sand
shall become a pool and
the thirsty ground
springs of water; the
haunt of jackals shall
become a swamp; the
grass shall become reeds
and rushes.
—Isaiah 35:6b-7*

Friday, December 19th

Theodore Almén

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

—Isaiah 35:8-9



Saturday, December 20th

Sandy Johnson

*And the ransomed of God shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their
heads; they shall obtain joy and
gladness, and sorrow and sighing
shall flee away
—Isaiah 35:10*

Sunday, December 21st
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
Lisa Hubinger

*Again the Holy One spoke to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign of God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven."
—Isaiah 7:10-11*



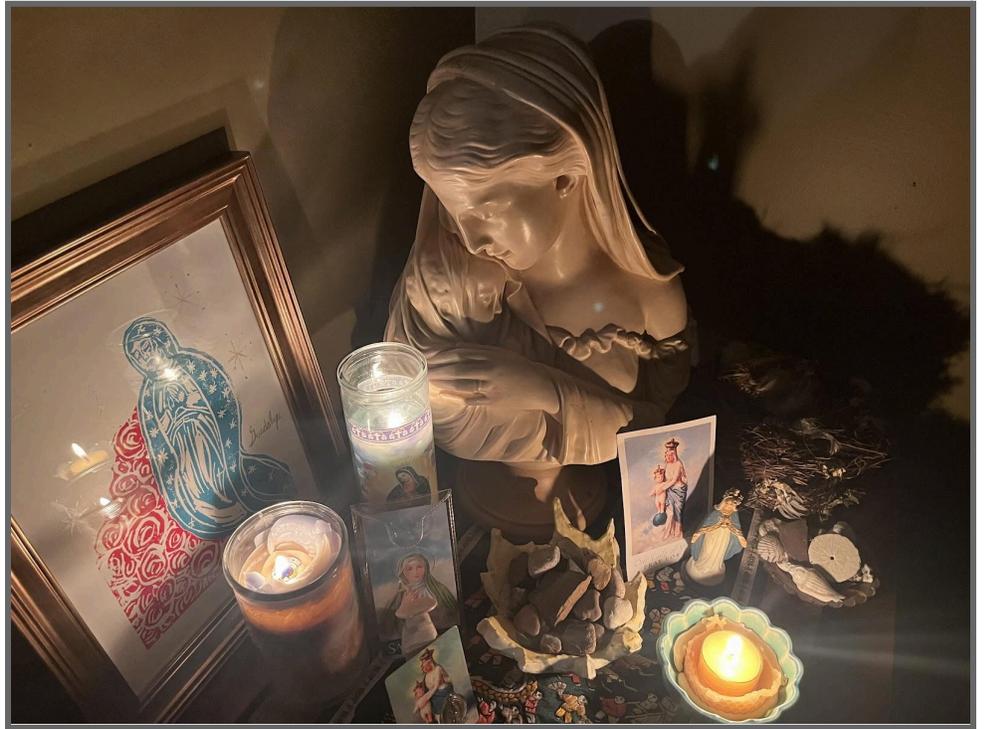
Monday, December 22nd
Bill Lindberg



*Therefore the Holy One
will give you a sign. Look,
the young woman is with
child and shall bear a son
Isaiah 7:14a*

Tuesday, December 23rd
Kate Wyngaard-Niccum

*...and she shall name him
Immanuel (God is with us)
—Isaiah 7:14b*



Wednesday, December 24th
Christmas Eve
Paul Snyder & Robert
Payne



*The people who
walked in darkness
have seen a great
light; those who lived
in a land of deep
darkness-on them
light has shined.
—Isaiah 9:2*

Thursday, December 25th
Christmas Day
Alice Nagel



*You have multiplied the nation; you
have increased its joy; they rejoice
before you as with joy at the harvest, as
people exult when dividing plunder.*

*For the yoke of their burden and the bar
across their shoulders, the rod of their
oppressor, you have broken as on the
day of Midian.
—Isaiah 9:3-4*

Friday, December 26th
Bill Lindberg

*For all the boots of the
tramping warriors and all
the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the
fire.
—Isaiah 9:5*



Saturday, December 27th

Bill Lindberg

*For a child has been born
for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his
shoulders, and he is
named Wonderful
Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.
—Isaiah 9:6*



*Thank you
for
imagining
with us this
Advent.*