



Advent Reflection for Saturday, December 18  
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You can listen to the reading and reflection by clicking [here](#).

### Isaiah 11:1-10

*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. 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; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.*

*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.*

“...the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge...” are the words that stood out to me as I read this passage. I often ask for guidance and counsel in my prayers and these words speak to that prayer. The tricky thing for me when I ask for God’s guidance is the waiting-part: the waiting for the direction, the “signs”, the little voice inside that tells me what to do. However, I often forget that I also need to ask for patience, faith and grace in my requests for guidance.

This passage from Isaiah promises the impossible will become possible when the branch grows from the root and stump of Jesse. That the coming Messiah will turn the most tumultuous and violent systems on their heads and peace will be given to all so even the “the wolf shall live with the lamb”.

This season of Advent reminds me that while I sometimes struggle with patience and waiting for God's guidance, I can also choose to celebrate in the waiting, in the quiet, in the listening and trust in the peace and grace that is Jesus's birth.

