

ADVENT JESSE TREE

History of the Jesse Tree

The name Jesse Tree comes from a Bible passage describing the descent of the Messiah from Jesse in Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot will come out of the stock Jesse, and a branch out of his roots will bear fruit." The Gospels in Luke 3:23-38 and in Matthew 1:1-17 have genealogies of Jesus Christ.

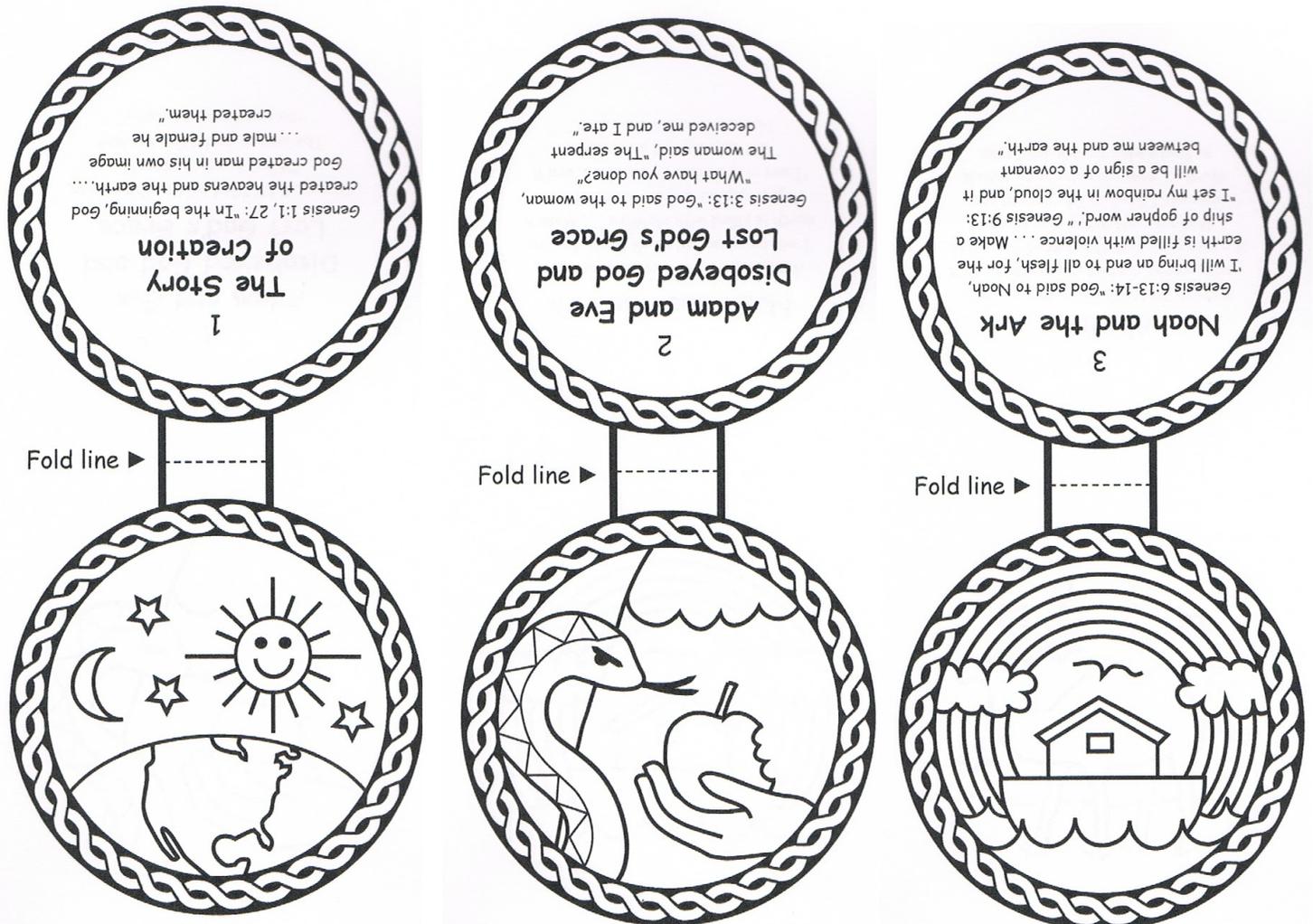
THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

The symbols for our Jesse Tree start with the first stories found in the Bible - God's creation of the world out of nothing, and of the fall of Adam and Eve. Next is the wonderful story of Noah and his ark full of animals. The saga of God's chosen people begins with the promises he made to Abraham, Isaac, son of Abraham and Jacob, son of Isaac. God's concern for his people is expressed again through the story of Joseph, son of Jacob and his coat of many colours.

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS – THE YEAR OF THE WORD

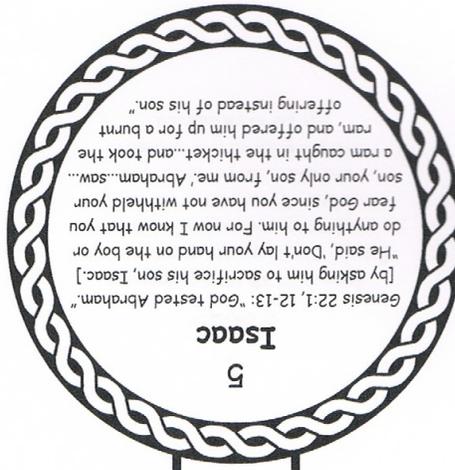
Living God, you walk alongside us and speak to us through the Scriptures. Your Son, Jesus Christ, listens to our hopes and fears and shows us how to live for one another. Send us the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds so that we may be your witnesses throughout the world. Amen.

Your word is our path and your truth is our light. This day and every day.





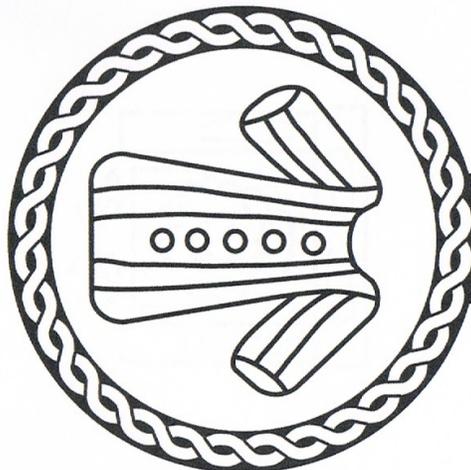
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Acknowledgement:
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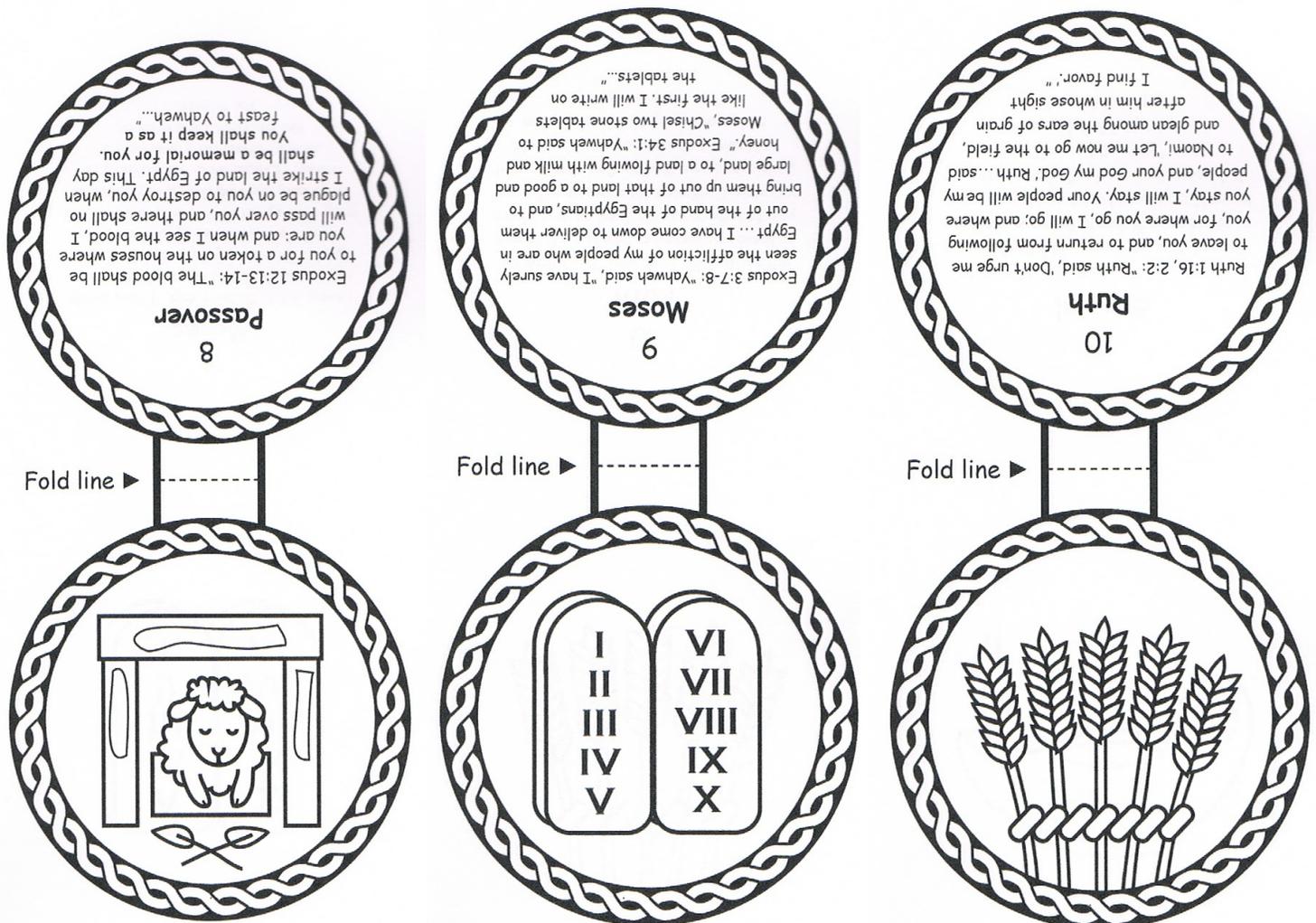
The Second Week of Advent

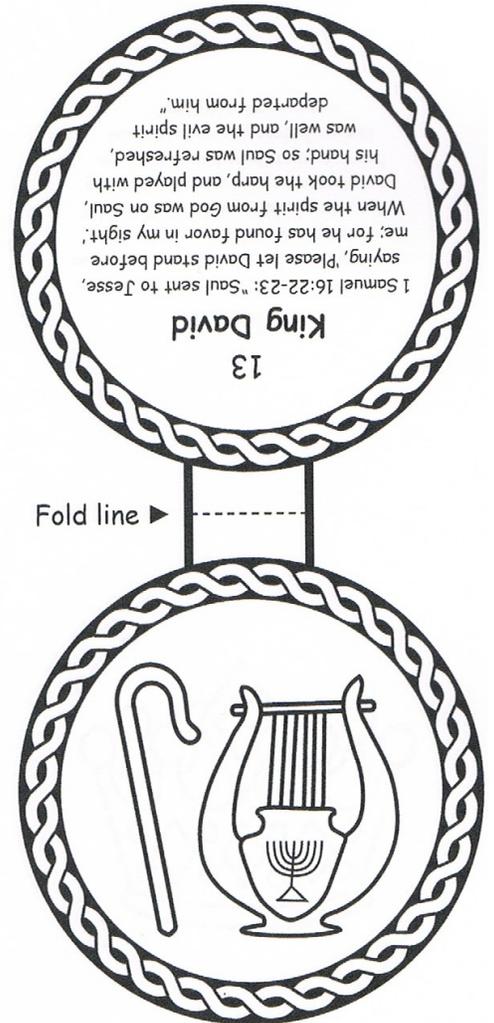
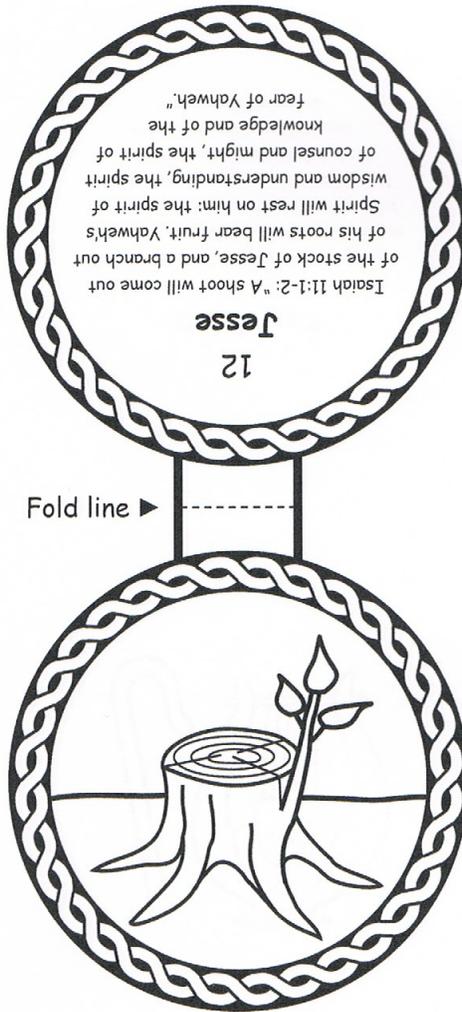
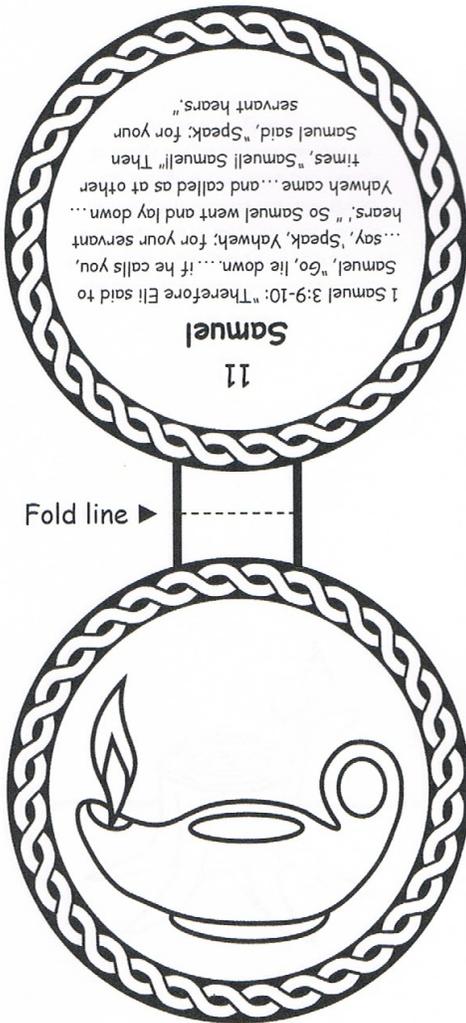
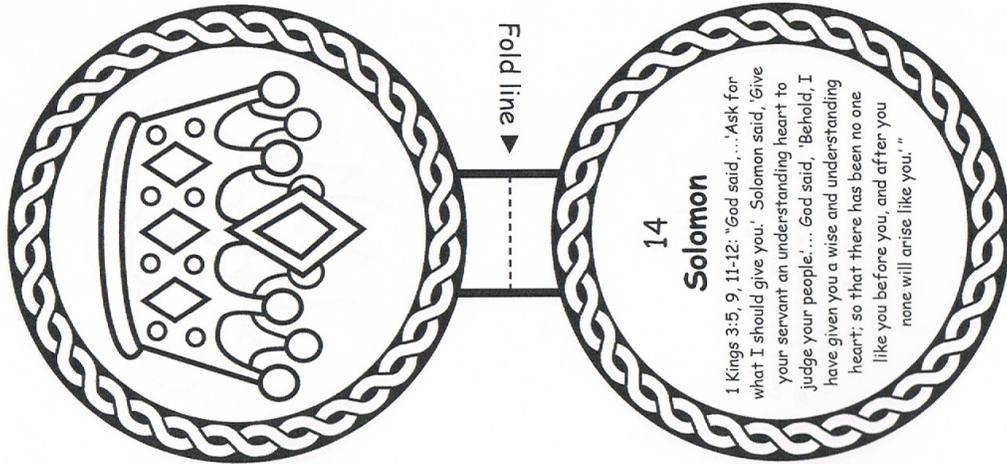
Our first two symbols for the second week of Advent represent Moses, the leader of the Jewish people during their great exodus from slavery in Egypt and the giving of the Ten Commandments. The symbols for our tree continue with the beautiful story of Ruth and her grandson Jesse, after whom this tree is named. This is followed by Samuel the Prophet, and with the symbol of the greatest Jewish king, David, in whose line Jesus was to be born. The final symbol is that of the wise king Solomon.

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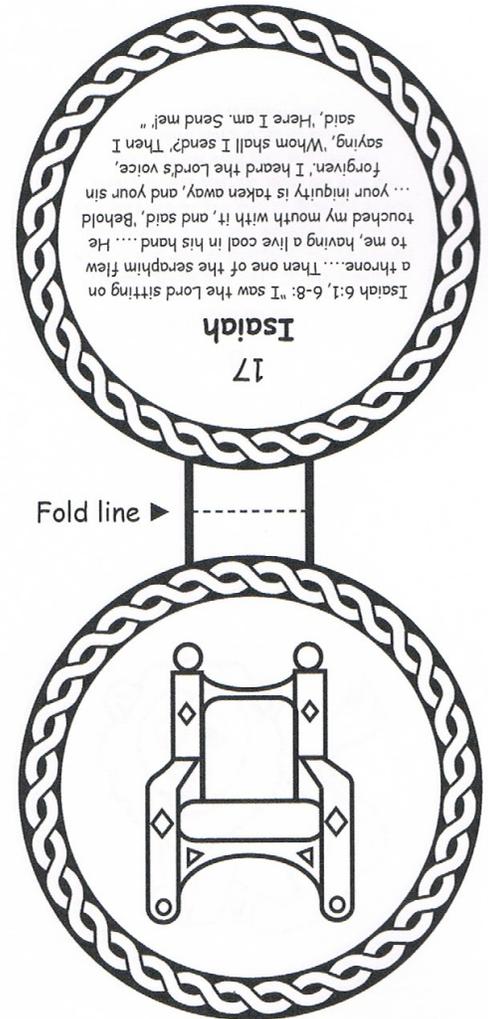
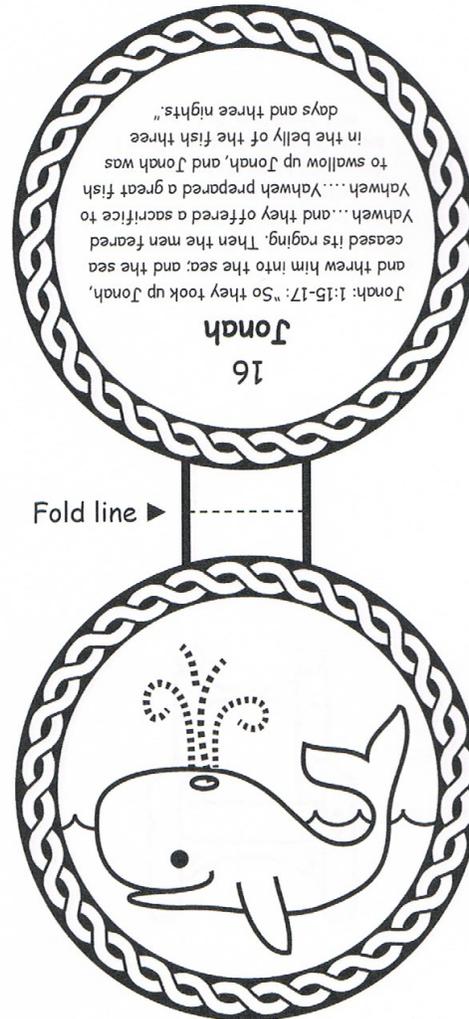
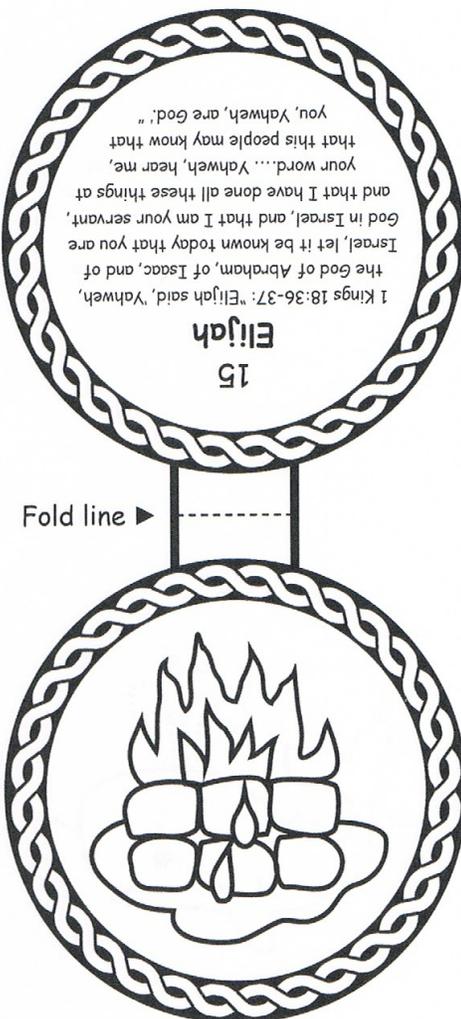
The Third Week of Advent

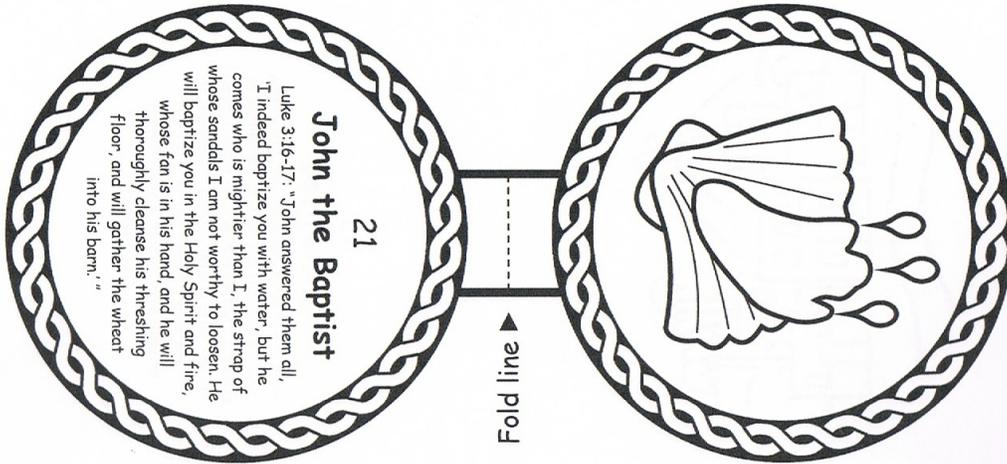
The Jesse Tree symbols for the third week of Advent start with the prophet Elijah, who was carried up to heaven in a chariot of fire, followed by the prophet Jonah who survived three days in the belly of a whale, and the prophet Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Jesus. God again reveals his loving concern for us in the story of Daniel, who was spared death in the lions' den. As we approach the time of Jesus' birth, we learn the story of Mary and Joseph the parents of Jesus, and John the Baptist, the prophet who preached the coming of the Messiah and baptized Jesus himself.

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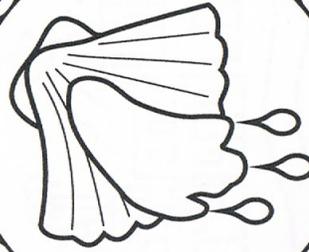




John the Baptist

21

Luke 3:16-17: "John answered them all, 'I indeed baptize you with water, but he comes who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to loosen. He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and fire, whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly cleanse his threshing floor, and will gather the wheat into his barn.'"



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Daniel

Daniel 6:20-22: "The king spoke, 'Daniel, servant of the living God, is your God able to deliver you from the lions?' Then Daniel said to the king, 'O king, live forever! My God has sent his angel, and has shut the lions' mouths, and they have not hurt me; because as before him innocence was found in me...'"



19
Mary, Mother of Jesus

Luke 1:34-35, 38: "Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, seeing I am a virgin?' The angel answered her, 'The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore also the holy one who is born from you will be called the Son of God'....Mary said, "Behold, the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word."



20
Joseph, Stepfather of Jesus and Carpenter

Matthew 1:20: "Behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take to yourself Mary, your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.'"

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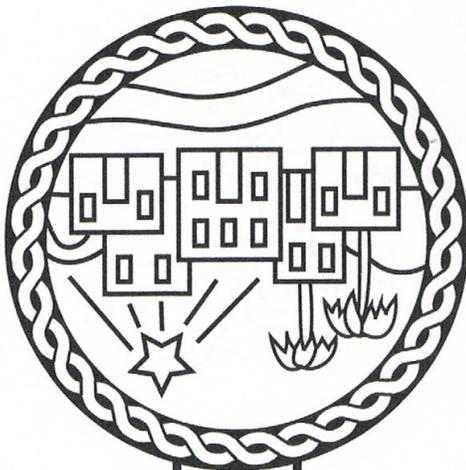
The Fourth Week of Advent

The symbols for the fourth week of Advent all deal with the people and places involved with the miraculous birth of Jesus. We start with the little town of Bethlehem, with its mysterious star, which was the setting for Jesus' birth. The shepherds in the fields were the first to hear the news proclaimed by the angels who filled the sky. And so it was that Jesus came to be born, closing the final chapter of the saga that had begun so long ago. And yet his birth is also the beginning of a new and even more wondrous story for all people.

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Bethlehem

Matthew 2:1-2: "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of King Herod, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is he who is born King of the Jews? For we saw his star in the east, and have come to worship him.'"



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Angels Proclaim The Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:8, 10-11: "There were shepherds ... keeping watch by night over their flock ... The angel said to them, 'Don't be afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy... For there is born to you today, in David's city, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.'"



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The Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:4-7: "Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to David's city, which is called Bethlehem ... to enroll himself with Mary'.... While they were there... She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a feeding trough, because there was no room for them in the inn."