Week 13: Peace

Isaiah 11:1 (NIV)" A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit."

During the four weeks of Advent, we prepare for Jesus to be born in the world.

During Advent, we practice opening our hearts to welcome Jesus. We practice Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

Last week, our story was about the prophet Isaiah's vision of the birth of a Savior. The first Advent Candle is a reminder of the Hope that the birth of the Messiah will change the world. On this second Sunday in Advent, we light a second candle. This candle is a reminder to practice Peace.

The prophet Isaiah wrote that the great leader who was to be born, the Savior, would be called "The Prince of Peace". This "Prince of Peace" would be the fruit of a "branch from the stump of Jesse."

So this week's ornament is a picture of a tree stump with a branch growing out of it. This expected King, the Messiah, will belong to this Jesse family tree. Jesse was King David's father, so that means Jesus will be a descendent of Jesse and David.

Isaiah describes God's Kingdom of Peace this way: "The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them."

Can you imagine that- even animals that might hurt each other, living quietly together?

Isaiah says that this expected Prince of Peace "will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore." That means someday no weapons, no fighting.

So our second Advent candle brings a message of Peace to come.

