

8 December 2013 - Second Sunday of Advent. Readings: Isaiah 11:1–10; Psalm 72:1–7, 18, 19; Romans 15:4–13; Matthew 3:1–12. **Theme: *Juicy fruit!*** – Matthew 3:8, “Produce **fruit in keeping with repentance.**” (cf. Isaiah 11:10, Psalm 72:19, Romans 15:6, 9).



INTRO: My favourite chewing gum in America...



I. GOOD ROOT SYSTEM.

Matthew 3:9-10, “And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. **The ax is already at the root of the trees**, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

“Because it is not visible like the treetop, a tree's root system is not given the appreciation it warrants. This configuration of underground tentacles is the source of health or illness for the tree, and when winds buffet the tree, it serves as an anchor. The root system of a mature oak tree can total hundreds of miles. An oak's chief support, the taproot, grows vertically for some distance before branching out.”

A. Connects us to Jesus.

Isaiah 11:1, “A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; **from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.**”

Last Sunday we sang, “O come, **O branch of Jesse**, free your own from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell your people save and give them victory o'er the grave. Rejoice! rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.”



B. Connects us to one another.

Acts 2:42, 46, “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer... **Every day they continued to meet together** in the temple courts. **They broke bread in their homes and ate together** with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

James 5:16, “Therefore **confess your sins to each other and pray for each other** so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”



II. GOOD WATER SUPPLY.

Matthew 3:11, “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.**”

Acts 2:15-17, “These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: “In the last days, God says, I will **pour out my Spirit** on all people...”



Cf. Plenty of Son(Spirit)shine.

Isaiah 11:2, “**The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him**— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD.”

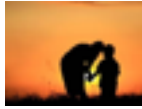


III. GOOD PRUNING.

Matthew 3:8, 12, “Produce fruit **in keeping with repentance**... His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor,

gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

John 15:1-2, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit **he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.**”



Hebrews 12:11, “No **discipline** seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it **produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.**”



Isaiah 11:9, “They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.”

Psalms 72:3, “May **the mountains** bring prosperity to the people, **the hills the fruit** of righteousness.”

THE SEVEN: Family; Religion; Economy; Education; Government; Arts and media; Science and technology.



CONCLUSION: John 15:16, “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—**fruit that will last**—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.” **May our fruit be juicy and long lasting** – Pastor Aldi ☺