

**Message Outline**  
*Teaching Tradition:*  
*Colors of Christmas*  
**Isaiah 11, 53**



**Intro:** Purpose of traditions...

- This Advent, exploring traditions of Christmas that reveal something about Christ...
  - Last week: Christmas Cards...“special deliveries” that led to Jesus’ delivery...
  - This week, colors of Christmas...

**History behind Christmas Colors**

- Borrowed from popular practice and later Christianized...
- Evergreens in winter...symbol of life and mystery for ancients...
- Holly plants hung in doorways...symbol of life/fruitfulness even in cold, dark winter...
- Poinsettias...green that bursts into red around Christmas...
  - Red as a reminder of the Baby that bled...
- “Green and Red” prophecies about this One to come (Is.11, Is.53 cf. 9:6-7)...

**Read:** Isaiah 11—Greener Days ahead...

**v.1**—“a shoot”: a sign of green new life from old stump...

- “Jesse” refers to the family tree of King David...Jesse is David’s daddy.

**v.2**—Spirit storyline in Jesus’ life: conception, baptizing, final words to disciples, etc.

**v.3-5**—Reality of judgment, but in righteousness/justice...

**v.6-9**—Peaceable kingdom...

**v.10-11**—“In that day”...not “this” day yet...

- Living in the wait for those final aspects...

**Read:** Isaiah 53—The Red Bled from the Suffering Servant...

**v.1-2**—“tender shoot” echoes Is.11...

**v.2-3**—Rejection of Jesus from the start: unwed peasant, no room in inn, manger, “crucify him” etc.

**v.4-12**—Wounds that heal...blood that brings life!

**Closing:** Using the colors of Christmas to lead us closer to the Christ of Christmas...

- Traditions to teach others about Jesus...

## • 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent: Candle of Peace



<sup>1</sup> Lord, you poured out blessings on your land!

You restored the fortunes of Israel.

<sup>2</sup> You forgave the guilt of your people—  
yes, you covered all their sins.

<sup>8</sup> I listen carefully to what God the Lord is saying,

for he speaks peace to his faithful people.

But let them not return to their foolish ways.

<sup>9</sup> Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,  
so our land will be filled with his glory.

<sup>10</sup> Unfailing love and truth have met together.

Righteousness and peace have kissed!

<sup>11</sup> Truth springs up from the earth,  
and righteousness smiles down from heaven.

<sup>12</sup> Yes, the Lord pours down his blessings.  
Our land will yield its bountiful harvest.

<sup>13</sup> Righteousness goes as a herald before him,  
preparing the way for his steps.

-Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 NLT