

FROM THE PASTOR

## Somewhere in Jerusalem... a parable for Advent

Isaiah 11:1

by William G. Davidson

Somewhere in Jerusalem...2,000 years ago a shoot rose from the stump of a tree on a particularly starry night. As it sprang from the stump it was greeted by a chorus of angels singing overhead not too far away "Glory to God in the highest! And on earth peace, good will to all people!" It was a very special winter night when that shoot first began to grow from the stump of that tree...somewhere in Jerusalem.

The stump from which it grew had a good strong root system. As the seasons came and went that shoot grew tall and proud, its branches providing a place to nest for birds and welcome shade to passers by. Once a traveling rabbi sat beneath it teaching others something about loving your neighbor.

Then one day soldiers came and cut it down. They trimmed its branches and fashioned it into two pieces, one considerably longer than the other. Then the rabbi returned, but only to carry the shorter piece on his back. For a long time he hung on that tree after the soldiers joined the two pieces together again that dark and stormy day.

Then, it stood empty at the place of the skull until the sunrise kissed its beam on Sunday morning and blessed it as the sign of life that lasts forever.

Somewhere in Jerusalem...on that same Sunday morning, another shoot rose from the stump of that same tree. A shoot from that very tree stands in your home this Christmas, adorned with all the beauty and promise of the announcement of angels and the sign of life that lasts forever...somewhere in Jerusalem.

Pastor Bill