

Trinity Devotion 19

Week of December 6, 2020

Fred Young

*“A shoot shall come out of the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots...
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear!”*

Isaiah 11:1,3

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One of my favorite holiday movies is *Elf*, the story of a baby that finds its way into Santa’s bag and travels to the North Pole, is adopted by an elf, and raised as one of Santa’s elves. Buddy, eventually finds out that he is not like the others and is told by his Papa Elf that he is human. Santa helps Buddy find his dad, but then tells him that he is on the naughty list. Buddy sets out to New York to find his father and discovers he has an entire new family that eventually loves him despite of his elf-ness. *Elf* is a classic that I have seen over 100 times. Every time I watch, I discover another layer to Buddy’s adventure. Just last week, I thought about all of the characters, including Santa, who has a change of heart in order to spread Christmas cheer for all to hear.

We are shoots from one stump or another. Each of our family trees sway and bend and adjust to include all members of our family and those we choose to call family. One thing is for sure, God is a part of our family structure. Love may ebb and flow, but rarely disappears. This Advent, may we all discover that kind of love that stems from the heart of Christmas cheer.

Things to Consider:

1. What is a Christmas tradition that you hold dear?
2. Are you willing to adapt your Christmas season to include others? What might you offer to another so that they too will feel the love of this season?

Prayer: O God, may we find love in all that we do and in everyone that we encounter. Amen.

