

2nd Sunday of Advent

Rooted in Expectation: An Ally's Advent Journey Reflection By Jenee Margo Gonzales, J.D.

Advent invites us into a sacred pause—a season of longing, preparation, and trust. As we enter the Second Sunday of Advent, Isaiah's vision of peace and Matthew's call to repentance stir something deep within me: a yearning for a world where justice blooms, where love is not questioned, and where every person—especially those on the margins—is welcomed with open arms.

Isaiah 11 begins with a shoot from the stump of Jesse—a tender sprout rising from what seemed lifeless. This image of rebirth and resilience speaks to the heart of Advent and to the LGBTQ+ journey: new life emerging from places of pain, exclusion, or silence. It also speaks to my own story, rooted in a complex tapestry of ancestry—Pueblo Indian, Mexican, Tejana, Canary Islander, and Scottish/Irish. I carry both the colonized and the colonizer in my blood, and Advent becomes a time to reconcile these truths, to honor the wisdom of my ancestors while seeking healing and justice in the present.

Mary, too, is part of this lineage—a living branch of wisdom and courage. Her body becomes sacred ground, her yes a seed planted in faith. Through her expectant heart, we glimpse the divine feminine in its fullness: nurturing, fierce, and wise. In many spiritual traditions, including Indigenous and Earth-based paths, wisdom is rooted in the land, in cycles of growth and renewal. Mary becomes a bridge between heaven and earth, embodying Mother Earth's nurturing spirit and the divine spark of possibility. Her story reminds me of the matriarchs in my own family—women who prayed with their feet, who carried love in unexpected ways, and who taught me that hope is an act of resistance.

The Gospel reading from Matthew 3 brings us John the Baptist, wild and unfiltered, crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord!" His message is urgent, raw, and unapologetic. It reminds me of the voices in our community who speak truth to power, who call for repentance not out of condemnation but out of love—a love that demands transformation. John's call to "produce good fruit" echoes the work of LGBTQ+ advocates and allies who labor for justice, inclusion, and healing. It's not enough to claim belonging; we must embody it.

This Advent, I find myself holding space for both Isaiah's dream and John's challenge. I'm reminded that peace doesn't come without preparation, and preparation doesn't come without repentance—a turning toward love, toward justice, toward each other. As we journey with Mary, may we cultivate hearts that expect miracles, hands that build bridges, and voices that cry out in the wilderness: "Come as you are. You are beloved. You belong."

Let us prepare the way—not just for Christ, but for each other.

About the Author: Jenee Margo Gonzales, J.D., is a proud first-generation college graduate from St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas, a Lay Marianist, and a Tejana with ancestral roots tracing back to the Pueblo Indians, Mexicans, Canary Islanders and Scottish/Irish. Her life and work reflect a deep commitment to justice, inclusion, and reconciliation. Jenee serves as Chief Development and

Communications Officer at Communities in Schools of San Antonio and has been a member of the MSJC LGBTQ+ Justice Team since November 2019. She finds joy in community-building, storytelling, and advocacy—especially through her blog Off the Rocks: Still Spirited, Never Spiked, which celebrates alcohol-free living and dog-friendly spaces. Her favorite role is dog mom to Jasper, her chocolate brown miniature schnauzer.