



DAILY ADVENT DEVOTIONAL FROM MONTREAT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Saturday, Dec. 5, 2020



Isaiah 4:2-6

**Advent Devotional
by Tom Frist**

Isaiah 4:2-6 (NIV)

In that day the Branch of the LORD will be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land will be the pride and glory of the survivors in Israel. Those who are left in Zion, who remain in Jerusalem, will be called holy, all who are recorded among the living in Jerusalem. The LORD will wash away the filth of the women of Zion; he will cleanse the bloodstains from Jerusalem by a spirit of judgment and a spirit of fire. Then the LORD will create over all of Mount Zion and over those who assemble there a cloud of smoke by day and a glow of flaming fire by night; over everything the glory will be a canopy. It will be a shelter and shade from the heat of the day, and a refuge and hiding place from the storm and rain.

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Jesus taught us that God is not only our Creator, but also our Father. Like any good Father, He loves us and wants our best. That means that He teaches us the way of life that leads to Shalom – Peace, Health, and Joy. When we insist on going another way, He

allows us to experience the painful results of our bad choices and then the surgery necessary to make things right again. But as our Father, He is always there to welcome us back in his arms, because a Father's mercy triumphs over his judgment.

Our passage today illustrates this truth. The fire that painfully purified, now provides light and guidance. The cloud that terrified and blinded, now shelters God's people in its shade and provides rain and crops so that they might live. The branch that was painfully pruned, now bears fruit. Our Father's love and mercy endure forever.

Tom Frist