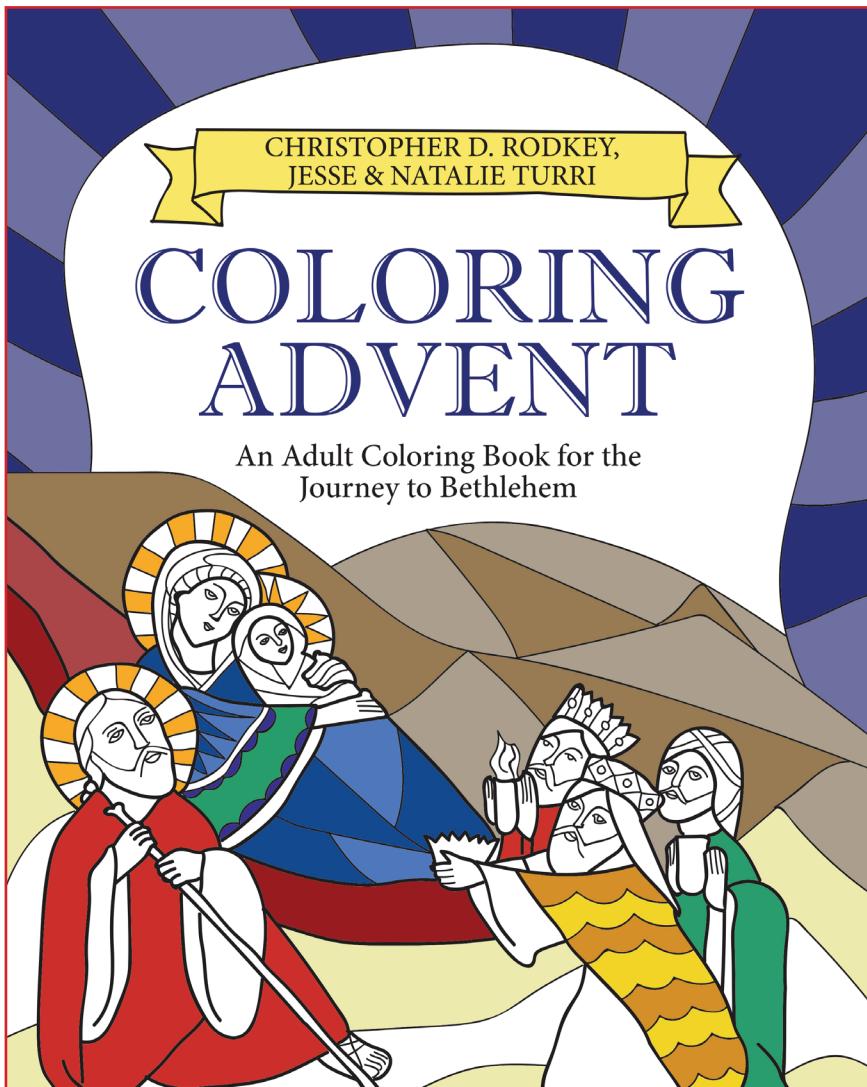


# COLORING ADVENT

## Bulletin Inserts



Thank you for downloading our free **Coloring Advent Bulletin Inserts!**

## An Introduction to Coloring Advent

by **Chris Rodkey**, co-author of *Coloring Advent* and *Coloring Lent*

*Coloring Advent* (and *Coloring Lent*) came out of a group activity at my church, where we had a small coloring group of adults and children with Christmas music on the four Sundays of Advent before the church service.

Searching for an appropriate adult coloring book, I was surprised to find there wasn't much available that had anything biblical. I talked to my local bookstore owner, who said he would love to have something like that to sell.

So I started thinking: What would a truly biblical adult coloring book look like? One that did not pump up the saccharine so associated with Christmas but still fun and theologically sophisticated?

As someone who reads radical theology—I like the hard, dense books—I find the primary theme of the Advent season is the in-breaking of God into the world through the body of a young teenage girl. The meaning of this is layered in multiple Hebrew Bible verses that are included in the lectionary but often overlooked because of the fact that Advent, but especially Christmas, is awesome!

So I took the lectionary readings for the three-year cycles, added and subtracted and moved things around, considered Catholic and Orthodox traditions. I had created a narrative that follows scripture, takes the Hebrew Bible seriously, and writes in plain language about serious theological issues of incarnation, annunciation, revelation, and how other-worldly the Advent and Christmas stories can be.

But that's the point, isn't it? That the other-worldly becomes this-worldly?

When I connected with the artists, Jesse and Natalie, he had just read Catherine Keller's book on feminist mysticism, *Cloud of the Impossible*. So we talked a bit about how the coloring book would look as a theological exploration, devotional, *and* coloring book. We spoke about images, clouds, icons, abstract art, violence, ecumenism, symbols, the terror of angels, moons, depictions of fatherhood, dragons, the intertextuality of the lectionary, and intentionally inviting readers and colorists to make theological choices in how they will color their pages. We tried to tone

down the Eurocentric images so colorists will have to make intentional choices about the color of skin of the characters and their linens. Whether events were night or day. Whether the jar depicted in the home of Mary and Martha is recognizably the same as the jar appearing in the depiction of the circumcision of Jesus. Whether images could point to apocalyptic images and thinking in the presentation of the falling star of Isaiah.

So in the end I hope *Coloring Advent* presents a resource for individuals, groups, and especially churches to work through many of these same theological questions. Coloring as a spiritual practice is an embodied experience. As the Christmas story has invited centuries of wonderment, it's my hope you will recapture the wonderment of the season as we engage the story with adult, 21st-century minds, reminding ourselves to resist the temptation to reduce the stories to be exclusively for children. Perhaps through a sophisticated and literate study of Advent, we will color Christmas more beautifully, passionately, and in a way that demands justice in the world.

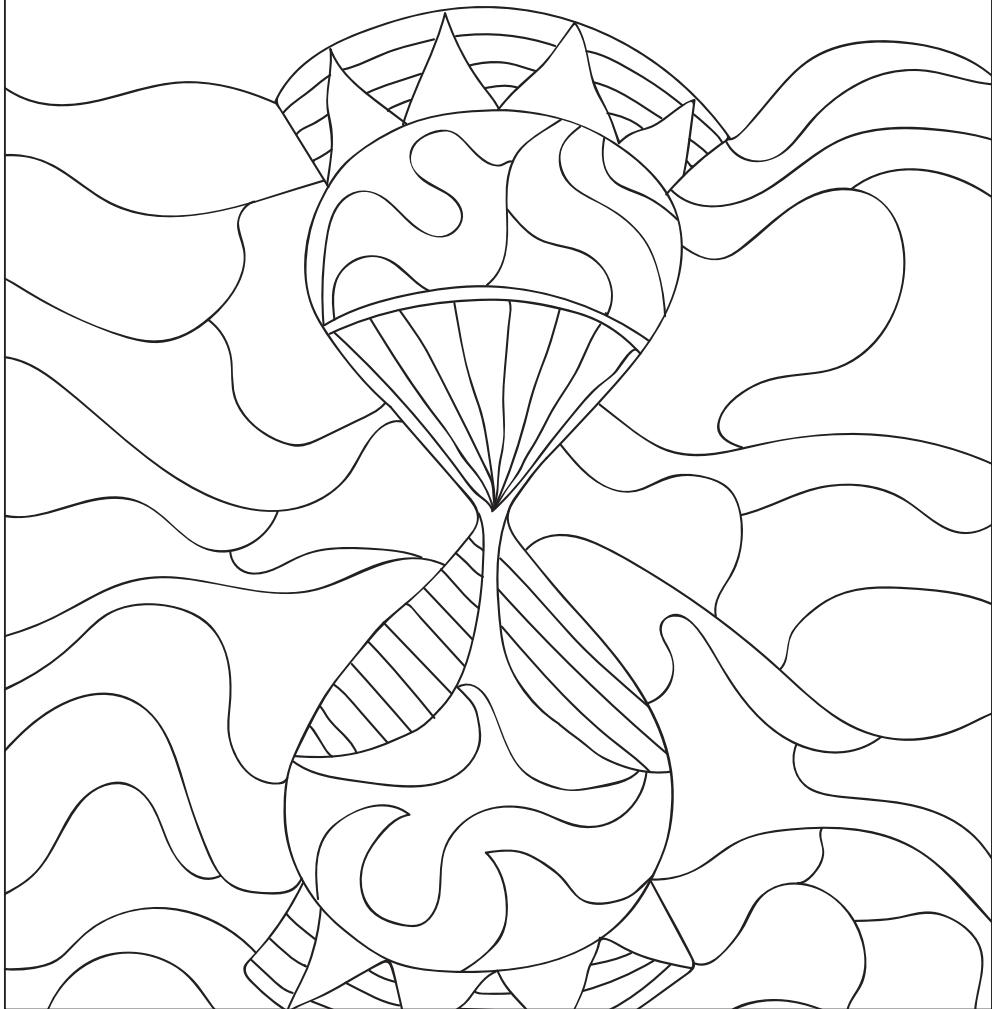
Speaking for Jesse and Natalie Turri, we hope you enjoy these four samples, chosen for the four Sundays of Advent, as our gift to you and your congregation. And if you like these pages, we hope you'll order the full *Coloring Advent* and *Coloring Lent* books, brimming with many more evocative and provocative images and devotions to bring the liturgical seasons to brilliant new life.

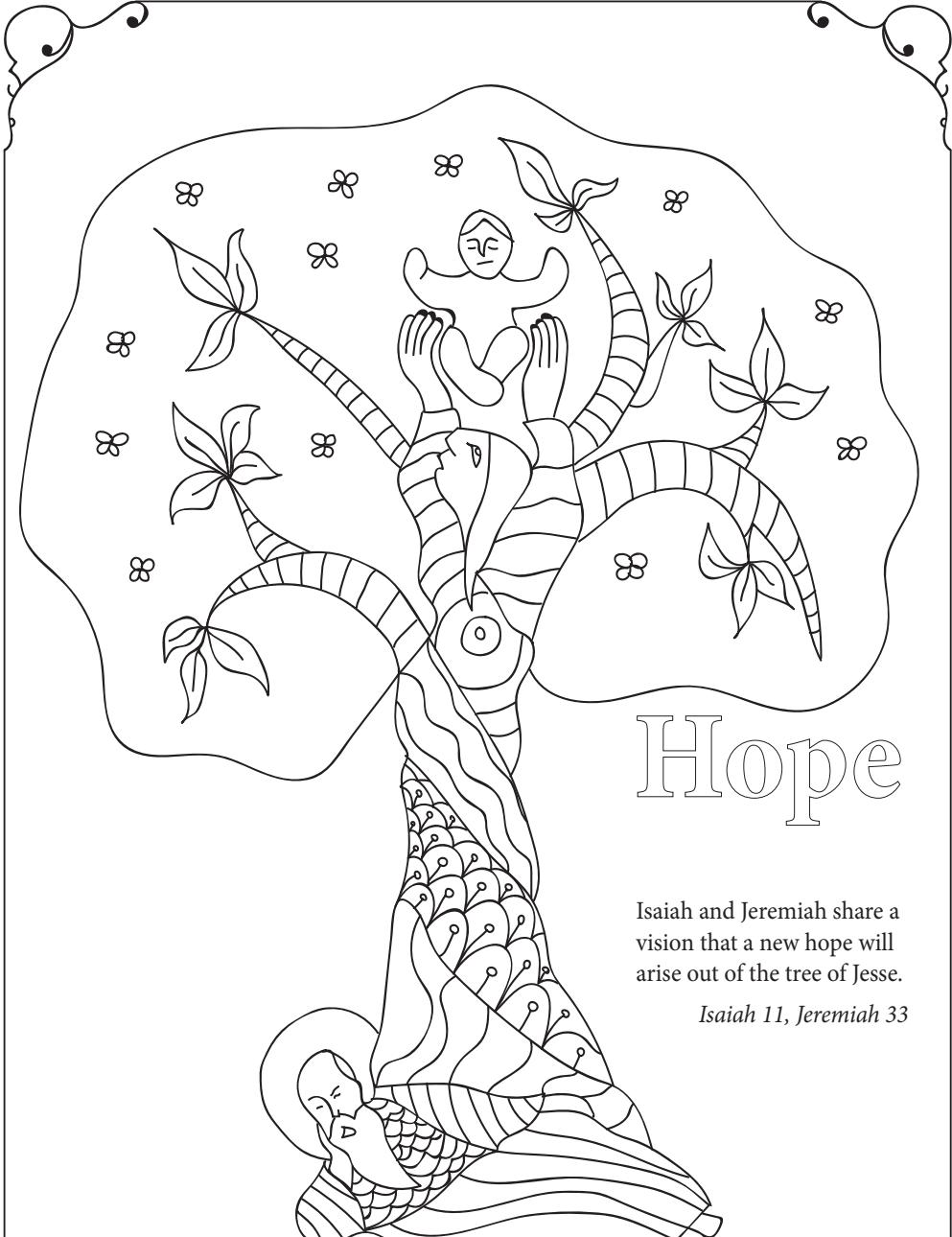
Happy Coloring Advent!

# The Secret

The mysteries of long ago, the mysteries of the present, and the mysteries of the future converge in our story of God's entrance into the world. The secret is about to be known as we begin this journey of Advent.

*Romans 16*





# Hope

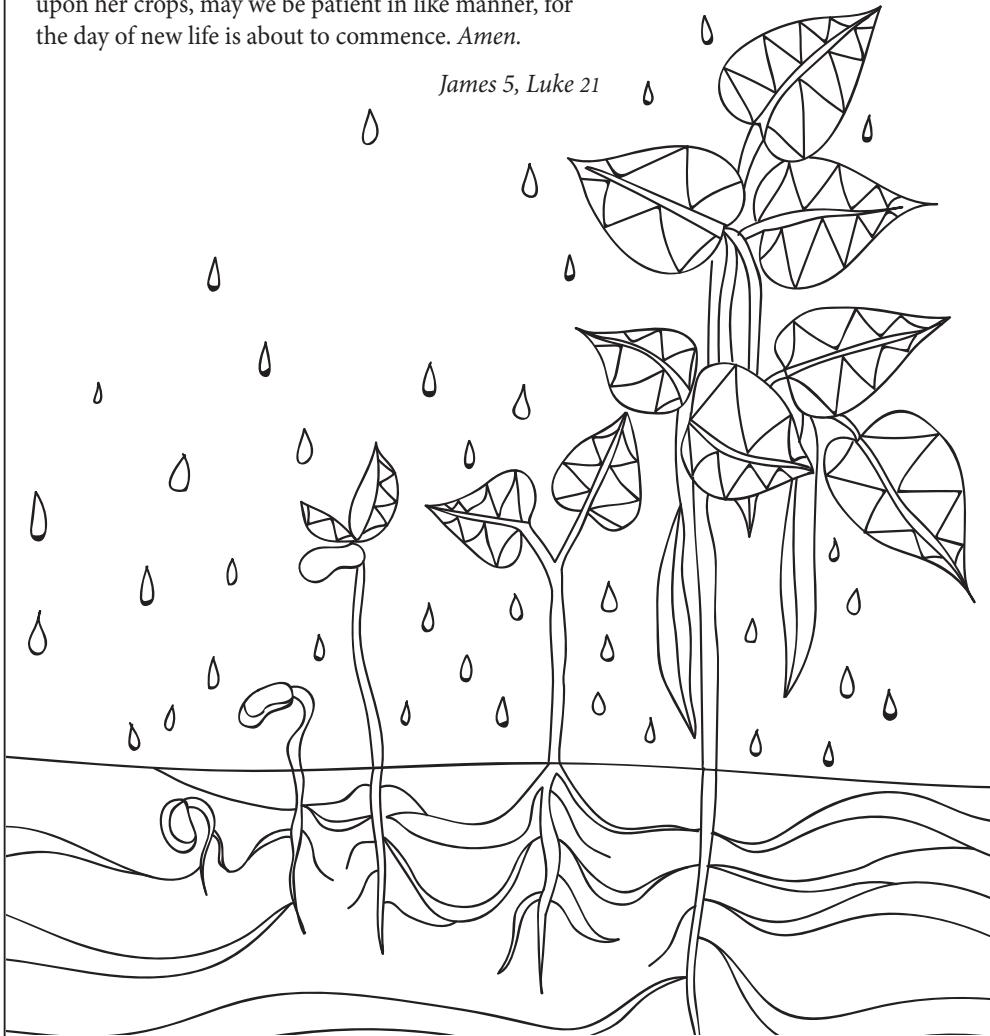
Isaiah and Jeremiah share a vision that a new hope will arise out of the tree of Jesse.

*Isaiah 11, Jeremiah 33*

# New Life Is Teeming

Like a farmer who is patient with early and late rains upon her crops, may we be patient in like manner, for the day of new life is about to commence. Amen.

*James 5, Luke 21*



**chalice press**

From *Coloring Advent: An Adult Coloring Book for the Journey to Bethlehem*, available at [www.ChalicePress.com](http://www.ChalicePress.com) or 1-800-366-3383.

# Holding Christ

## CHRISTMAS EVE

Jesus is born, Cloud enfleshed, in  
a manger. Mary loved her baby,  
and knew that God loved her.

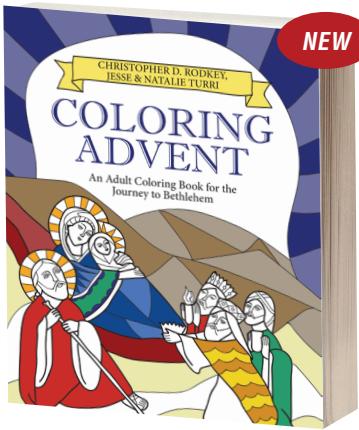
*Luke 2*



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# Color and Pray through the Seasons



## COLORING ADVENT

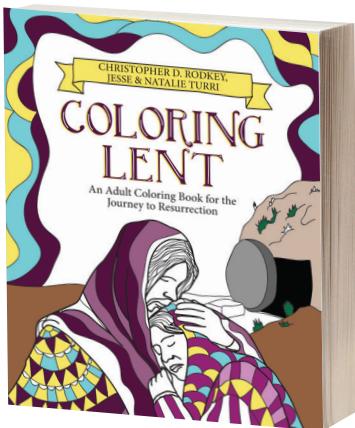
*Illustrations by Natalie and Jesse Turri*

*Reflections by Christopher D. Rodkey*

Experience the season of Advent in a vibrant, new way this year with *Coloring Advent*!

Through evocative illustrations and scripture reflections from both testaments, you'll engage the prophecies of the coming Messiah, the humble birth of Jesus, and the time-honored first worshipers at Epiphany in a prayerful new way. *Coloring Advent* offers a daily image and reflection from the first Sunday of Advent through Epiphany.

9780827203976, \$12.99



## COLORING LENT

*Illustrations by Natalie and Jesse Turri;*

*Reflections by Christopher D. Rodkey*

The journey of Lent—from Ash Wednesday to Easter—is traditionally one of prayer, repentance, spiritual discipline, and meditation. But coloring? Now you're invited to add the spiritual practice of “coloring the Bible” on your Lenten journey. Engage both sides of your brain as you read the scripture and color your way through each day of Lent with beautiful illustrations of God's Resurrection story, from the Old Testament prophecies of Emmanuel to Jesus' victorious appearances after his crucifixion to the loyal disciples. Dozens of drawings will draw you deeper into the story and your own place in it.

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YOU WANT TO CHANGE THE WORLD. SO DO WE.



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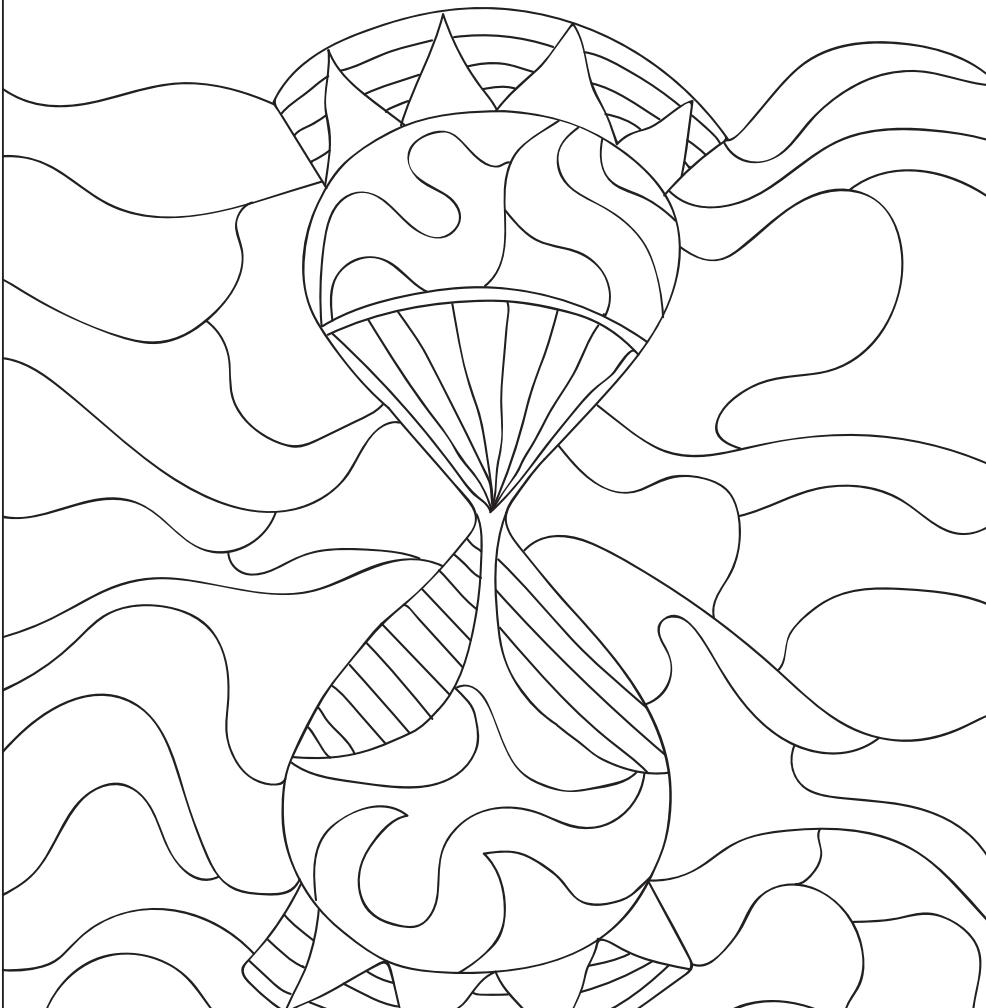
Buy *Coloring Advent* and *Coloring Lent* together and save! 97A0878, \$24.99

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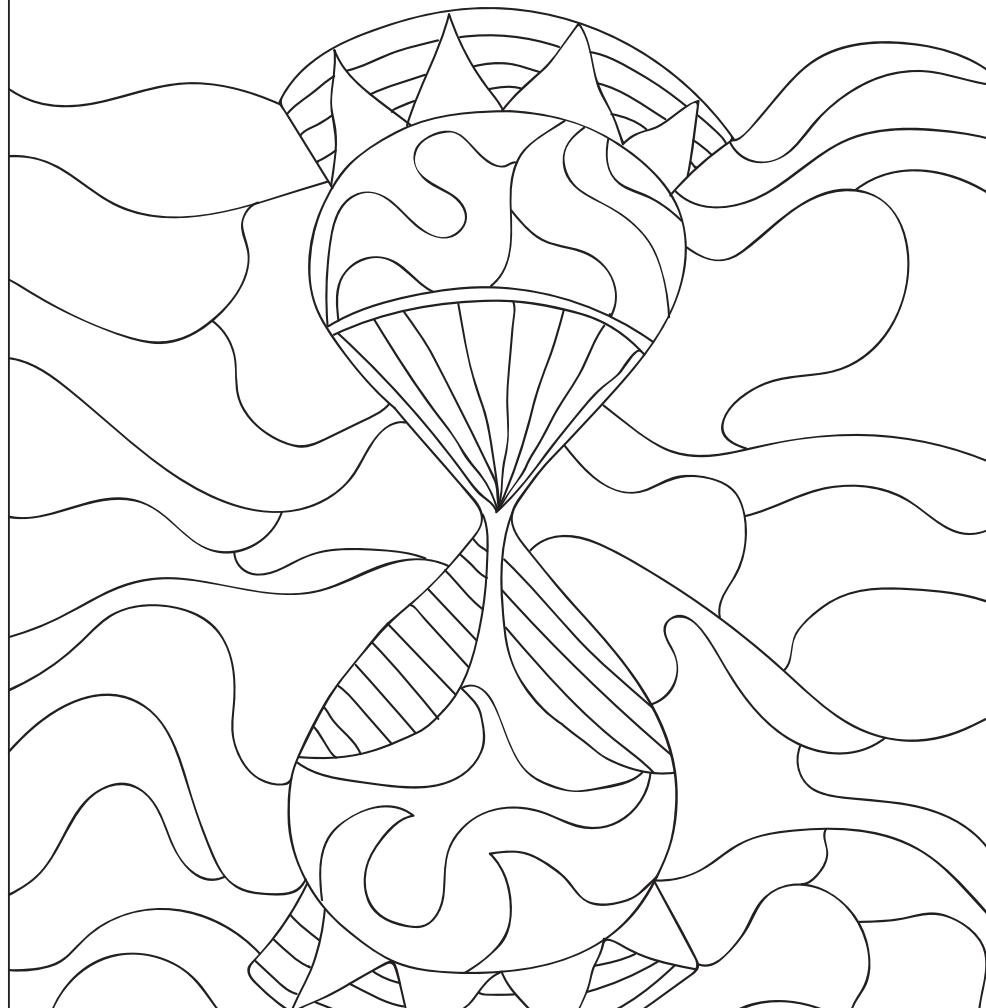
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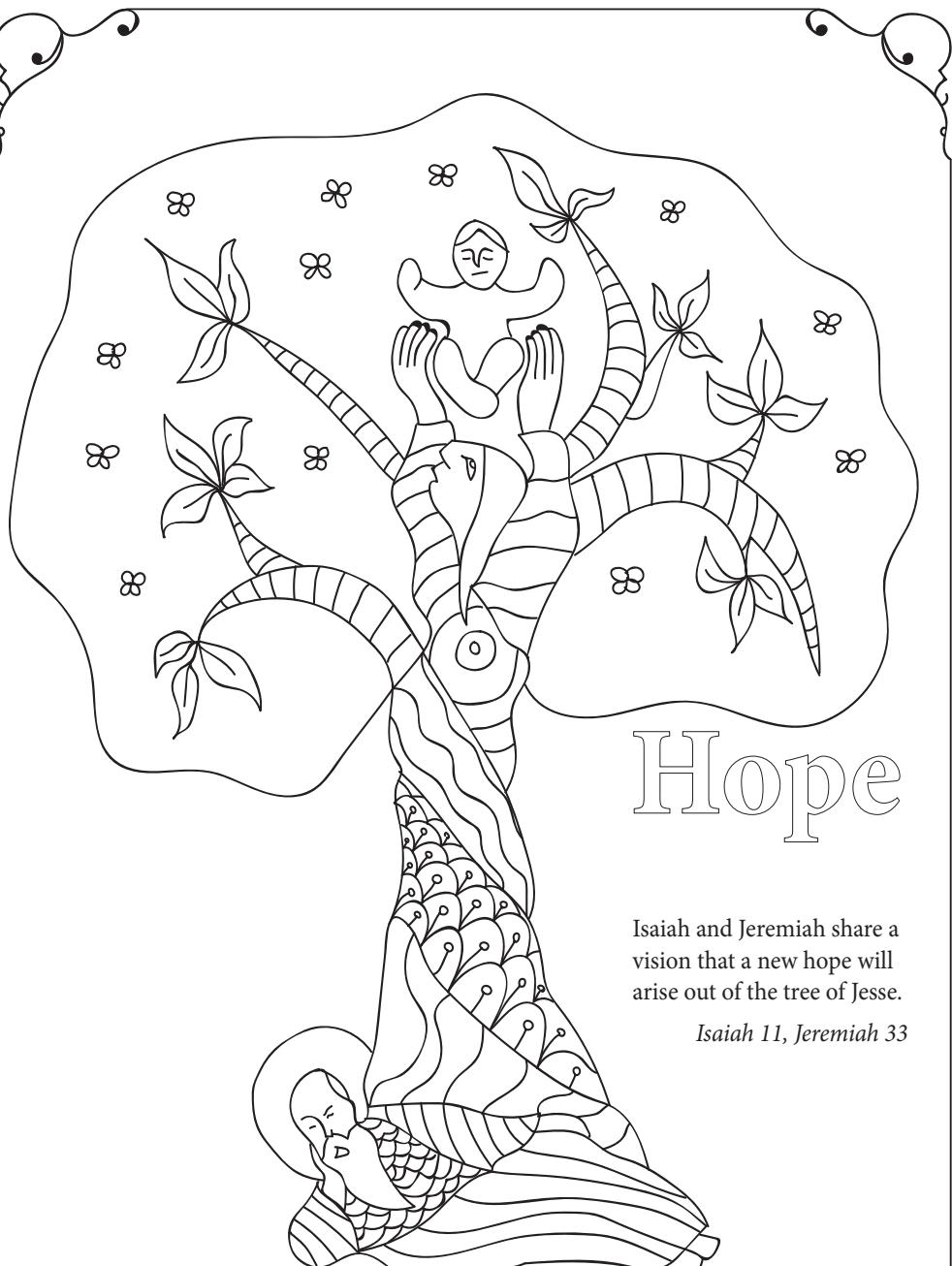


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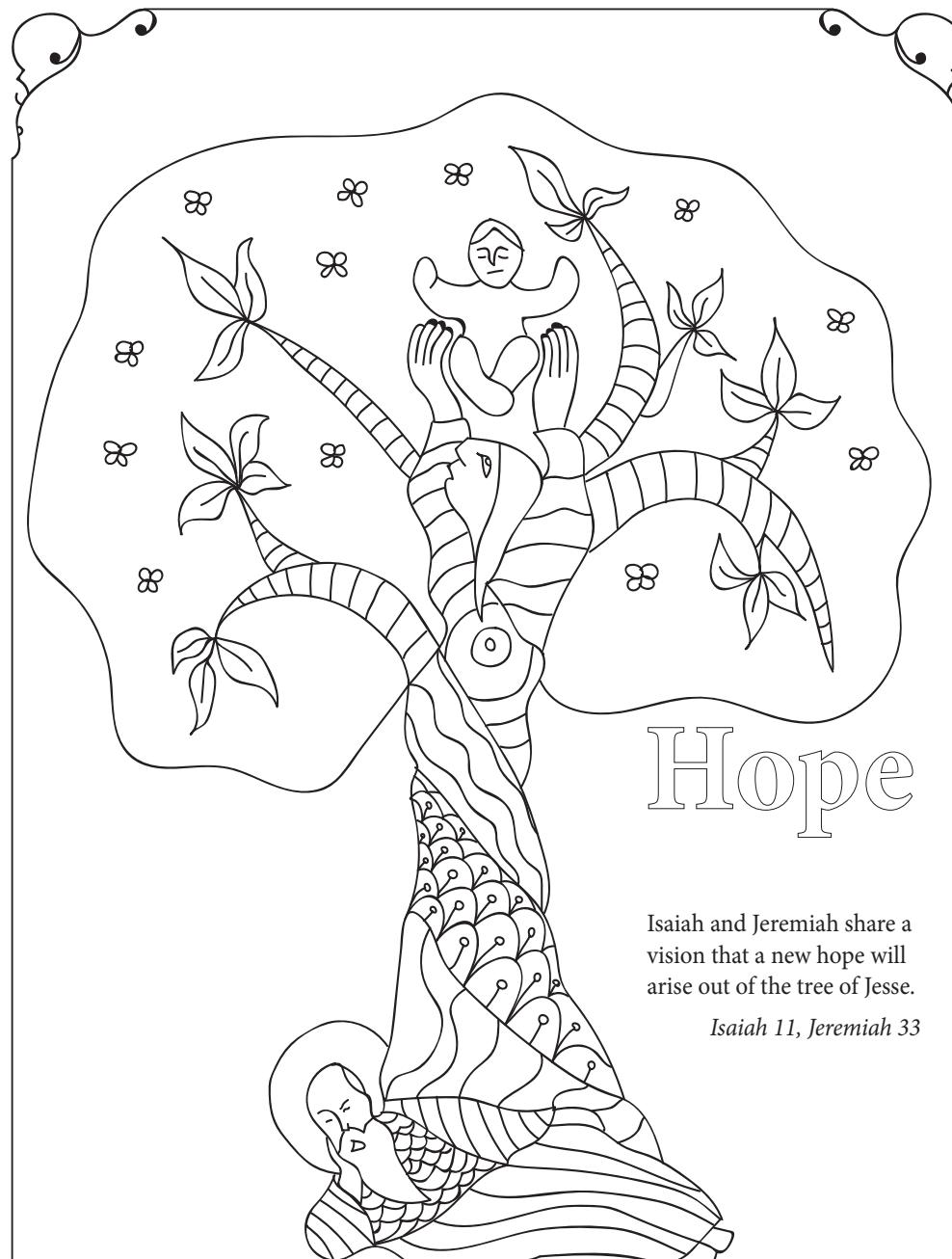
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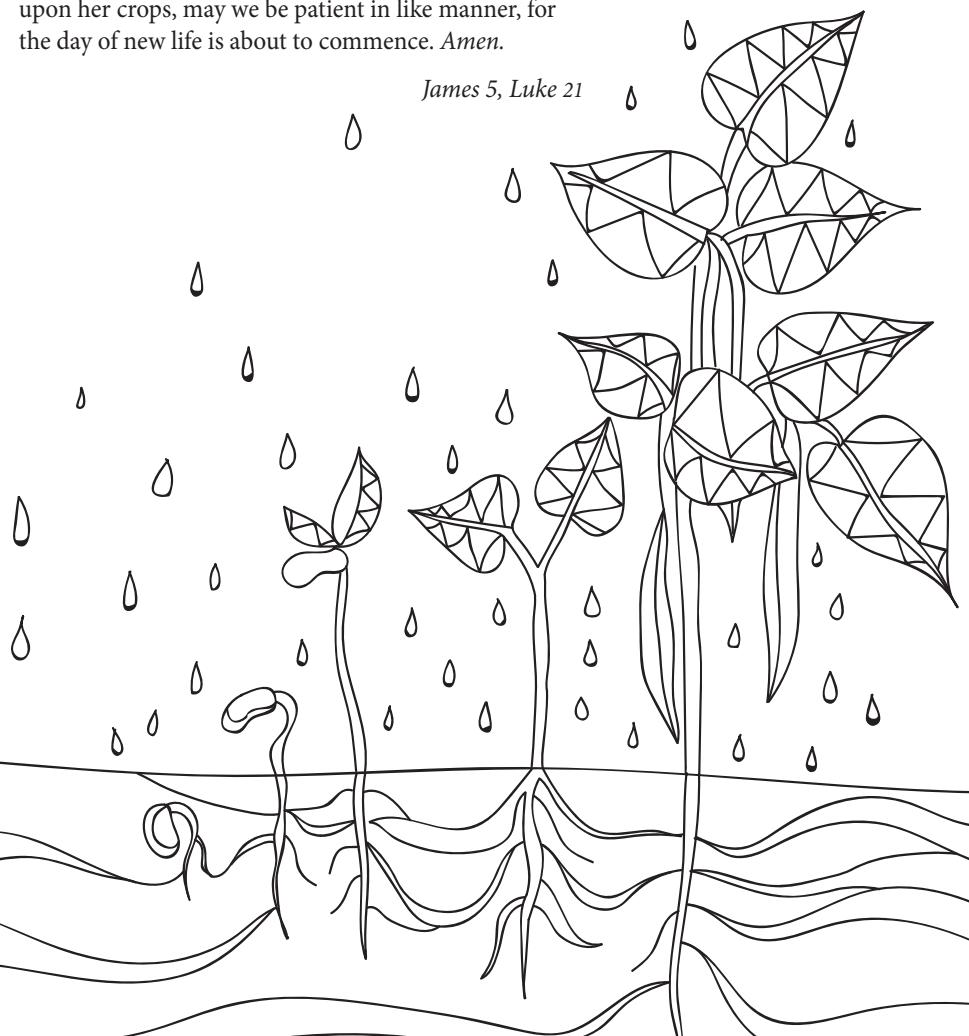
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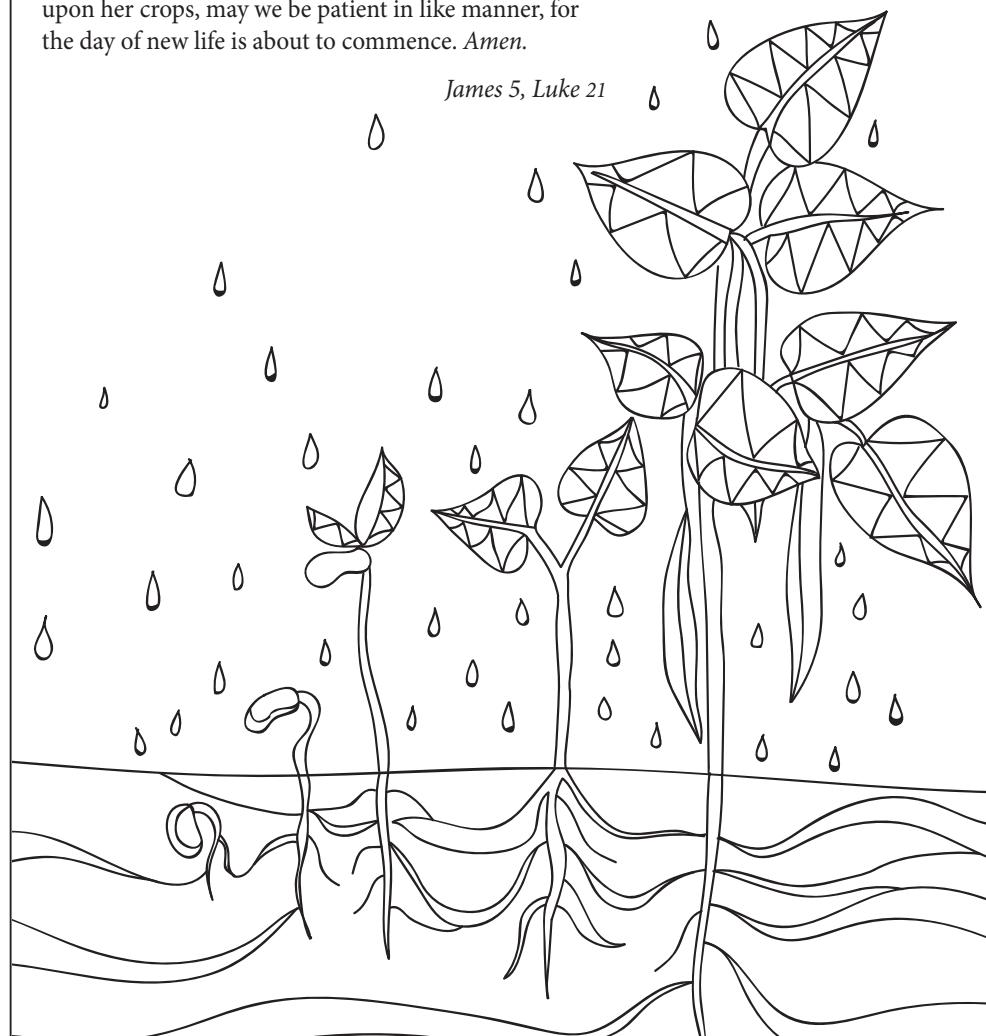
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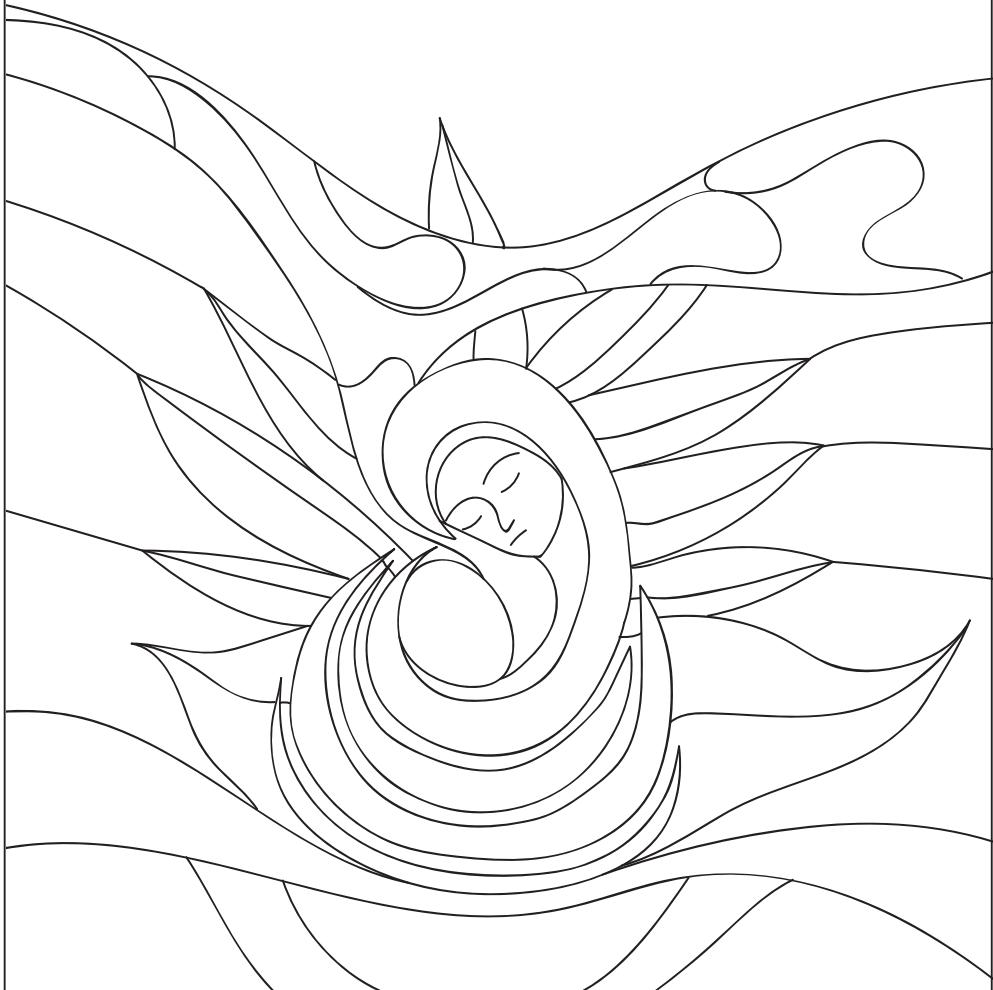


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