

**Worship Material**  
**Come, Jesus, show us the way**  
**Material from Roots Bible Study**  
**Sunday 7th December**

**Begin with an opening prayer**

As we gather today to await your coming among us,  
help us to listen to the voices that we normally ignore.  
Give us grace and humility to learn from both young and old.  
Show us your way and help us to walk in it.  
**Amen.**

**Read Isaiah 11.1-10**

**Bible notes**

In evocative poetry, Isaiah announces a new and better type of king (v.1), who will come from the 'stock of Jesse'. Jesse was the father of King David and therefore an ancestor of Jesus. David's line had quickly become mired in scandal and drifted away from faith. The family tree that was once strong seemed to have died, but trees are hard to kill and new life can grow from the stump. The better king described here has the Spirit of God resting on him, bringing wisdom, insight, the ability to give and receive good advice, strength, knowledge, respect of God and delight in awe of God. (The prayer for this seven-fold spirit forms part of confirmation and ordination services in many churches.)

The new king does not decide by his senses (v.3b) because it is too easy for counsellors to manipulate what information a ruler receives. This king will see through all that and give equal justice to the needy. This will lead to a universal peace in which those creatures who are normally natural enemies can coexist peacefully (vv.6-8).

This 'root' king will be like an ensign (the type of flag soldiers rallied around in battle), gathering in people of other nations. Another potential cause of conflict is turned into co-existence through him.

## Prayer

Lord Jesus, you show us the way  
to live together in peace and harmony.  
Help us to be people who share peace with others  
and live in harmony with everyone  
and your beautiful world.

**Amen.**

## A prayer to conclude

Loving God,  
may we be less dismissive of the young,  
of the quieter voices who struggle to be heard  
and the voices we don't want to hear.  
Give them courage to keep on speaking  
and showing us the way, just as you do,  
until we become agents of change.

**Amen.**