

## **Advent Calendar: Day 13**

The reflections for this week are centered around the readings for this Sunday's texts  
Jeremiah 33:12-16, Romans 13:8-12, Matthew 1:18-25

### **Matthew 1:25**

And (Joseph) named him Jesus.

By his naming of Jesus, Joseph assumes the role and responsibility of fatherhood. In this moment of adoption, Joseph not only continues to demonstrate an abundant love that does what is right and gracious but he also demonstrates what God's love is doing for us in Jesus. We are not of the blood line of Abraham, nor do we share the redemptive history of the exodus, nor are we the rightful heirs of the Davidic throne. Through the coming of Jesus, God nevertheless gathers us, (the gentiles) into His family and names us as His own. God adopts us as his chosen children and heirs. Our adoption into His family is an act of resolute and sacrificial love signed in the incarnation and sealed in the eventual crucifixion of Jesus. As Jesus grew to know Joseph as his father, so we have come to know God as our Abba/Father.

Consider what it is like to be without family, without a place, without love, identity or belonging. Sometimes the dark places in life makes us feel these ways. Let the promise that you are chosen and adopted into God's family shed light on your spirit. You are His beloved child. Nothing can separate you from your heavenly Father's love!