Hope Is Assured

Isaiah 11:1-5

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. 2The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. 3His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; 4but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. 5Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

Imagine

a forest of beautiful trees:

cedars maybe.

It is a lovely place to walk

with pathways and clearings

letting in the sun

for the flowers of the forest floor.

A cool place,

home and shelter

for countless birds and animals.

It has taken centuries to grow and mature.

Then one day

it is cut down

and destroyed.

Devastated,

you walk through it

thinking of all that it had been,

now shattered.

Then your cast-down eyes notice,

from a stump of the mightiest tree,

a frail green shoot.

All is not lost,

here is hope for the future.

It may be fragile,

it may be a long time off,

but hope is assured.