

## Week 2: Christmas at the Home of Matthew

### Opening Prayer

### Warm Up Question

What do you have in your home that reminds you of your ancestors/extended family members?

### Matthew's House; drawing by Kevin Burns



What do you notice about this drawing of a house? Does it remind you of any houses you have visited or lived in?

### Scripture Warm Up Questions

What do we remember about Christmas at Mark's house last week?

*Mark 1:1--The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.*

*Matthew 1:1--An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.*

What does each of these gospel accounts say about how the good news begins?

Glance at **Matthew 1:1-17** (we won't read this, but briefly discuss a couple of things.)

**An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.** <sup>2</sup>Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, <sup>3</sup>and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by **Tamar**, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, <sup>4</sup>and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, <sup>5</sup>and Salmon the father of Boaz by **Rahab**, and Boaz the father of Obed by **Ruth**, and Obed the father of Jesse, <sup>6</sup>and Jesse the father of King David. And David was the father of Solomon by **the wife of Uriah**, <sup>7</sup>and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, <sup>8</sup>and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, <sup>9</sup>and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, <sup>10</sup>and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, <sup>11</sup>and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. <sup>12</sup>And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, <sup>13</sup>and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, <sup>14</sup>and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, <sup>15</sup>and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, <sup>16</sup>and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of **Mary**, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.

<sup>17</sup>**So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.**

1. What do we notice about this genealogy?

2. What do we know about the women in Jesus' genealogy?

## **Matthew 1:18-25**

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>**All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:** <sup>23</sup>**“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”** <sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

3. What do you notice about this passage?

## **Matthew 2:1-12**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” <sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

<sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

4. What do you notice about this passage of scripture. What surprises you?
  
5. What do the Magi and the women of Matthew's genealogy share in common? What do you think Matthew might be indicating by including these stories?
  
6. Consider who in our contemporary context might be identified as outsiders. Where do they fit in Matthew's house?

### **GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD by Ann Weems**

The story of Jesus Christ is this:

The people of this earth waited for a Messiah...a Savior...  
and only God would send a little baby king.

The child grew and began to question things as they were,  
and the man moved through his days and through this world,  
questioning the system of kings and priests and marketplace.

He was called the New Creation  
the New Covenant  
the Son of God  
who brought all who listened  
who saw  
who understood  
change and new life.

But kings and corporations and churches of this world  
work very hard  
to keep things as they are out into forever Amen.

And so they killed him:  
he who said, Love one another,  
he who said, Feed my sheep,  
for they didn't want to share their bread and their wine.

Now the story should have ended there  
except that the story has always been  
that our God is the God of the covenant.

The Good News is that  
in spite of our faithlessness  
God is faithful  
and Jesus Christ was resurrected,  
for God so loved the world  
that he gave his only begotten Son

that whoever believed  
might have everlasting Life.

Listen, you who have ears to hear.

Listen, and sit down to bread and wine with strangers.

Feed his sheep...Love one another,  
and claim new life in his name.

## **Sharing Joys and Concerns**

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

Loving God, as the rising sun chases away the night, so you have scattered the power of death in the rising of Jesus Christ, and you bring us all blessings in him.

Especially we thank you for  
the community of faith in our church . . .  
those with whom we work or share common concerns . . .  
the diversity of your children . . .  
indications of your love at work in the world . . .  
those who work for reconciliation. . . .

(Other prayers of Thanksgiving may be offered silently or aloud.)

Mighty God, with the dawn of your love you reveal your victory over all that would destroy or harm, and you brighten the lives of all who need you.

Especially we pray for  
families suffering separation . . .  
people different from ourselves . . .  
those isolated by sickness or sorrow . . .  
the victims of violence or warfare . . .  
the church in the Pacific region. . . .

(Other prayers of Intercession may be offered silently or aloud.)

Eternal God, you never fail to give us each day all that we ever need, and even more. Give us such joy in living and such peace in serving Christ, that we may gratefully make use of all your blessings, and joyfully seek our risen Lord in everyone we meet. In Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

One: May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace through the power of the Holy Spirit. **All: Amen.**

One: Bless the Lord. **All: The Lord's name be praised.**