

Wednesday 16th December

Rev'd Jackie Bellfield

Readings

Genesis 49:2,8-10

Psalm 72

Matthew 1:1-17

*Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness*

Do you avoid it? Reading the Genealogy of Jesus? It's rare, in fact I can safely say, that I have never heard this read at a nine lessons or carol service.

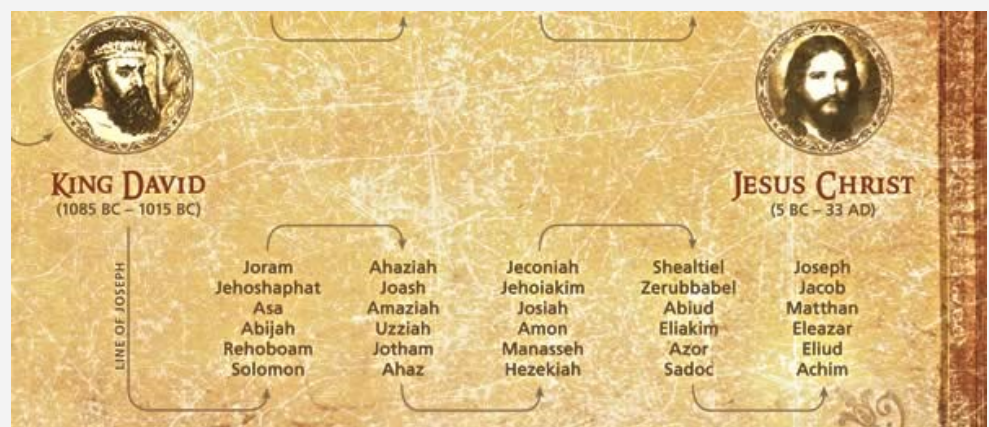
Family tree investigation is a growing phenomenon. There are a number of websites, courses, books to help you track down your ancestors, who they are, where they lived and other relevant information in relation to your family history.

The television programme "Who do you think you are?" illustrates this even further as delving into the past of famous people releases unknown information.

The first century Christian converts were also curious about the genealogy of Jesus. Matthew presents it in his gospel narrative. Listeners to the gospel may easily switch off to the long list of names. But there are three striking things about these readings.

Firstly, it reminds us of the humanity of Jesus. Like each of us Jesus had a human history, all who fought and loved, sinned and repented, were faithful and unfaithful to the religion of Israel. Secondly, Jesus' bloodline was not pure. It involved many characters involving people who broke promises, were prostitutes, adulterers, idolaters and corrupt. Not a pretty picture but Jesus is "one like us in all things except sin".

Finally, it is Joseph's line that we trace not Marys - God's fulfilment and the willingness of Joseph and Mary. Nothing is insignificant—not with God involved.



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Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made
This heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You

*So here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
And You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me*

King of all days
Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came
To the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor

So here I am to worship

And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross

Prayer

Comforting and restoring God help me again to sing your praise.

To lift up my eyes to see your radiant presence and to reflect on your presence for us, for me today.

Help me to learn from past, embrace the present and hope in the future.

Amen

Light of the World

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-MmRGSEG2LM>

We pray for whom Christmas brings on peace on earth. For those who this year have been broken by relationships with others. We remember all

Pastoral visitors who seek to draw near to others.



YouTube

Wirral Methodist Churches
New Song Wirral



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