

# WELCOME Christmas

Welcome Christmas

South Sub Church

November 30, 2025

## Hope for the Waiting

### Matthew 1:1-17 (NLT)

<sup>1</sup>This is a record of the ancestors of Jesus the Messiah, a descendant of David and of Abraham: <sup>2</sup>Abraham was the father of Isaac. Isaac was the father of Jacob. Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers. <sup>3</sup>Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah (whose mother was Tamar). Perez was the father of Hezron. Hezron was the father of Ram. <sup>4</sup>Ram was the father of Amminadab. Amminadab was the father of Nahshon. Nahshon was the father of Salmon. <sup>5</sup>Salmon was the father of Boaz (whose mother was Rahab). Boaz was the father of Obed (whose mother was Ruth). Obed was the father of Jesse. <sup>6</sup>Jesse was the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon (whose mother was Bathsheba, the widow of Uriah). <sup>7</sup>Solomon was the father of Rehoboam. Rehoboam was the father of Abijah. Abijah was the father of Asa. <sup>8</sup>Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat. Jehoshaphat was the father of Jehoram. Jehoram was the father of Uzziah. <sup>9</sup>Uzziah was the father of Jotham. Jotham was the father of Ahaz. Ahaz was the father of Hezekiah. <sup>10</sup>Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh. Manasseh was the father of Amon. Amon was the father of Josiah. <sup>11</sup>Josiah was the father of Jehoiachin and his brothers (born at the time of the exile to Babylon). <sup>12</sup>After the Babylonian exile: Jehoiachin was the father of Shealtiel. Shealtiel was the father of Zerubbabel. <sup>13</sup>Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud. Abiud was the father of Eliakim. Eliakim was the father of Azor. <sup>14</sup>Azor was the father of Zadok. Zadok was the father of Akim. Akim was the father of Eliud. <sup>15</sup>Eliud was the father of Eleazar. Eleazar was the father of Matthan. Matthan was the father of Jacob. <sup>16</sup>Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Mary gave birth to Jesus, who is called the Messiah. <sup>17</sup>All those listed above include fourteen generations from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the Babylonian exile, and fourteen from the Babylonian exile to the Messiah.

### Sermon Summary:

**Welcome Christmas** is a five-week Advent journey through Matthew's telling of Christ's birth, inviting you to encounter Jesus who fulfills every promise God ever made. Each week opens a new doorway into the wonder of His coming. From a genealogy filled with longing, to a frightened carpenter learning to trust, to outsiders led by a star, to a family protected by God's unshakeable love, Matthew shows us that Christmas is far more than a story. It's the arrival of God's faithfulness in human flesh. Let this season awaken your heart to *welcome Christmas* like never before.

### Ice Breaker Questions:

1. What's one tradition your family had around Christmas when you were growing up?
2. If you could meet any ancestor from your family line, who would it be and why?
3. While waiting a long time for something you really hoped for, what helped you stay patient?
4. What's one way you've seen hope show up in an unexpected place in your life?

### Scripture Study Questions:

1. How does Matthew describe Jesus in the opening verse of the genealogy (1:1)?
2. Who are the first three ancestors listed in Jesus' genealogy (1:2)?
3. Which woman is mentioned in connection with Judah's sons in verse 3?

# WELCOME *Christmas*

4. Who is the mother of Boaz according to verse 5?
5. Which two women are mentioned in verse 5 in relation to the ancestry of Boaz and Obed?
6. How does Matthew refer to Bathsheba in verse 6?
7. Who was the father of Shealtiel in verse 12?
8. Which person is listed as the father of Joseph in verse 16?
9. How does Matthew describe Joseph's relationship to Jesus in verse 16?
10. According to verse 17, how many generations are there from Abraham to David, from David to the exile, and from the exile to Christ?

## **Interpretive Questions:**

1. Why do you think Matthew begins his Gospel with a genealogy rather than a story, and what does this reveal about Jesus' identity and mission?
2. What might the inclusion of unexpected people—such as Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and “the wife of Uriah”—suggest about God's grace and the kind of kingdom Jesus came to establish?
3. What does the presence of exile in the genealogy (1:11–12) reveal about Israel's spiritual condition and the kind of salvation Jesus came to bring?
4. How does the genealogy communicate the idea of waiting or longing, and what does this say about God's timing in fulfilling His promises?
5. Why do you think Matthew highlights Joseph's role as the legal father of Jesus in verse 16, and how does this support Jesus' claim to the throne of David?

## **Application Questions:**

1. Where do you need to trust that God is still working in the “waiting rooms” of your life, just as He worked through generations before Christ came?
2. How does seeing broken and imperfect people in Jesus' family tree encourage you to bring your own weaknesses and failures to Him?
3. How can remembering God's long-term faithfulness to His promises give you hope in a situation that currently feels uncertain or overwhelming?
4. Whom do you tend to write off—yourself or others—and how does Matthew's inclusive genealogy challenge you to see people through the lens of God's grace?
5. Where might God be inviting you to persevere in obedience, even when you don't yet see the outcome of His promises?