# Minster Bethel Congregational Church (MBCC)

15/11/2020 - Matthew 1 v 1-17

### From Abraham to Jesus



For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

#### Isaiah 9:6

#### Good morning and welcome to our service.

Our first hymn is The Family of God" <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CEAopyO2koA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CEAopyO2koA</a>

I'm so glad I'm a part of the Family of God,
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood!
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,
For I'm part of the family,
The Family of God.

You will notice we say "brother and sister" 'round here, It's because we're a family and these are so near; When one has a heartache, we all share the tears, And rejoice in each victory in this family so dear.

I'm so glad I'm a part of the Family of God,
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood!
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,
For I'm part of the family,
The Family of God.

From the door of an orphanage to the house of the King, No longer an outcast, a new song I sing; From rags unto riches, from the weak to the strong, I'm not worthy to be here, but praise God I belong!

I'm so glad I'm a part of the Family of God,
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His Blood!
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,
For I'm part of the family,
The Family of God



#### Our reading today is Matthew 1 1-17:

https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+1%3A1-17&version=NIV

It is so amazing how the bible connects. For the last couple of months we have been exploring Genesis. Learning about Adam & Eve, Noah and his family, Abraham, Isaac, Joseph and Esau. Last week we heard of Joseph reuniting with his family. Here we are now in the first book of the New Testament which starts with the genealogy, all the way from Abraham to Jesus.

Do you know what a genealogy is? It's a long list of names of people in a family. We often refer to it as a family tree. The very first verses of the Gospel of Matthew contain a long list of 42 generations. These would not be easy verses to memorize; lots and lots of names, but this list is important because it introduces us to Jesus.

Can you imagine a line of 42 people (with lots of others either side representing members of the family). The first person is you, behind you is your mum & Dad behind them your grandparents and so on back 42 generations.

Now, with everyone lined up straight, and without stepping out of line, I'm wondering if the first person can see the last person in line? We are all stuck in the present time. We can see our mums and dads, our grandparents, and sometimes even our great-grandparents, but we can't see much farther than that. We can't jump back in time to meet our great-great-great grandparents, but they are really there in our genealogy. Can God see all of them? God can see our whole family of faith, connected by birth and connected by our love for Jesus. Even though we can't see the whole picture of God's plan for our lives and for our family, God can see it.

Matthew starts out his Gospel with a long list of names that begins with Abraham and ends with Jesus. These people are not all perfect people; far from it. God works through people that make mistakes. God works through people like us. Even though we are not perfect and we do not always say and do things out of love, the message of God's love gets passed along. God is faithful from one generation to the next. God connects us and loves each one in our family.



**Let's pray.** Thank you, God, for being the strong connection of love that is passed down from one generation to the next. Help us to teach each other the important lessons of love. Amen.

## My Family Tree

Fill in to write the family member then write the name of your family member in the box provided under each word. Add and remove more boxes if you like.

