



CALL IN
The
NEW TESTAMENT

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

- I. Bell tap or organ voluntary as a signal for silence
- II. Singing
- III. The Apostles' Creed
- IV. Prayer, closing with the Lord's Prayer in concert
- V. Singing
- VI. Calling roll of officers and teachers
- VII. Responsive reading of the lesson text by school
- VIII. The Decalogue

THE LESSON

- I. Organ interlude while the classes are being arranged
- II. Class study of the lesson
- III. Warning bell—5 minutes
- IV. Closing bell—silence

THE CLOSING

- I. Singing
- II. Review and application of the lesson
- III. Secretary's report
- IV. The Church School Creed
- V. Singing
- VI. Benediction

EDITORIAL STAFF

- **Rev. Roderick Belin**, Publisher
- **Rev. Garland F. Pierce**, Editor, Lessons
- **Rev. Dr. Christal L. Bell**, Lessons
- **A. L. Stanfield**, Copy Editor
- **O. Dotson**, Layout and Design

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day He arose from the dead, He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Church Universal, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.



THE CHURCH SCHOOL CREED

I believe my A.M.E. Church School must grow and grow; and that I must make it a top priority to make it so. Every member a Christian, every Christian a worker, every worker trained so that a worker need not be ashamed. This we ask in Jesus' name.

CALLED THROUGH OUR ANCESTORS

LESSON SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 1:1-17; HEBREWS 1

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: HEBREWS 1:1-5, MATTHEW 1:1-6, 16-17

Key Verses: Long ago God spoke to our ancestors, . . . but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son. Hebrews 1:1-2

Hebrews 1:1-5; Matthew 1:1-6, 16-17 (NRSV)

Hebrews 1:1-5

1 Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,

2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds.

3 He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

5 For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be his Father, and he will be my Son”?

Matthew 1:1-6

1 An account of the

genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,

3 and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram,

4 and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon,

5 and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse,

6 and Jesse the father of King David. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah,...

16-17

16 ...and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.

17 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.

WORD POWER!!!

- **Genealogy** – The study of family history and origin.
- **Messiah** – The expected King, deliverer of the Jews: Jesus.
- **Ancestor** – A descendant in the family line beyond a grandparent.

Getting Ready!!!

What do you know of your family history? Have you even been told that you look like someone in your family who you have never met? In biblical times it was very important and customary to know the names of people who were in a person's family. Today, there are many different ways that we can trace our roots and learn about our ancestry.

Today, take some time to ask someone in your family about your family history. Ask them if you resemble someone that you may not know. In today's scripture, we will read about the genealogy of Jesus and Jesus' historic family roots starting with Abraham and ending with Jesus' mother, Mary. Jesus' genealogy is both in the Old and New Testament. We learn that Jesus' family tree has many remarkable people, including those who are Jewish and those who are not.

Families vary in the way they are structured. We have blood family, adopted family, friends who become family, and many other variations of this special bond. No matter how your family is configured or made, know that God loves family. We see that Jesus' lineage traces all the way back to the line of David. Jesus is indeed the firstborn and only Son of God! Jesus, being

our King, connects all humankind as family. This means that we are all connected in Jesus through our faith communities. Take a couple of moments and name a blood relative, a friend who has become family, and a church member you consider special to you. Take some time to thank God for bringing them to your life and making them a part of your family.

Into God's Word!!!

We are heirs of God's promise. This means that being connected to Jesus has benefits. We can be assured that faith in Jesus Christ gives us not only salvation but access to God. As heirs of the promise, all of God's promises belong to us and to those who believe. You are not alone. You are a part of a divine connection with others in God's kingdom. This means you are never alone.

God has a plan and purpose for your life that was created while you were in your mother's womb. Your gifts and talents connected with those in your family and beyond can create powerful ministries and help the world. Imagine a large tree with many branches. The tree has deep roots which spread out even though we cannot see them. It gets nutrients and nourishment from the sunlight and the earth. The tree's leaves bud and provide nourishment for humans and animals. We, too, are like a tree, a family tree. We have deep roots that connect us and when properly nourished we can provide hope and light to others in the world. So, the next time you see your family tree or see a tree in nature, remember that you are created to bloom and grow in your faith in order to help others to do the same.

Using God's Word!!!

Isn't it neat that the Bible gives an account of Jesus' family history? Did you know any of the names of Jesus' family members before reading today's lesson? Were you surprised that Jesus' family tree could trace all the way back to the Old

Testament? Understanding Jesus' heritage from the beginning reminds us of the amazing call that Jesus had on his life. A call of love, compassion, and justice to all humankind. As Jesus was called to do God's work, we too are called to do the same.

While it is awesome to read about Jesus' background, it really gives us insight to a more remarkable truth. God's redemptive power and love in human history is shown and displayed in the person of Jesus. You are a part of God's larger story as well! Your role in this world, how you treat others, and what you do for God truly matters! You are creating history for the future generations to come by your words, actions, and footprint on this earth.

Just as God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways, God still speaks to the world today. Have you ever heard God's voice? Have you ever felt prompted to maybe call or text someone to check on them or even felt the need to check in on a parent or guardian? This could be a form of God speaking to you, asking you to be an encourager. Being heirs of the promise and a part of the family of God comes with many responsibilities. Some of these responsibilities include helping others, speaking up for those with no voice, and many more. It is in God's word where we can find all the promises of God and the plans God has for us to conduct our daily lives.

While many of us are excited about this month because we get to celebrate Jesus' birth and the giving of gifts, there are still many who do not know why we celebrate. This Advent season, take some time and share Jesus' family with someone you know. Share with them the importance that both of you can be heirs of your families' promise. Let your "gift" this year include telling others about your faith in God and your security in Jesus Christ.

Abr
 aham
 was the
 father of
 Isaac, and
 Isaac the
 father of Jacob,
 and Jacob the
 father of Judah and
 his brothers, and
 Judah the father of Perez
 and Zerah by Tamar, and
 Perez the father of Hezron,
 and Hezron the father of Ram,
 and Ram the father of
 Amminadab, and Amminadab the
 father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the
 father of Salmon, and Salmon the father
 of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of
 Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse,
 and Jesse the father of David the king. And
 David was the father of Solomon by the wife of
 Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and
 Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father
 of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and
 Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of
 Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the
 father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah
 the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and
 Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his
 brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the
 deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and
 Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and
 Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the
 father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud,
 and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan
 the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph
 the husband
 of Mary, of
 whom was
 b o r n

JESUS

who is called Christ.

sacredsandwich.com

Remix!!!

Advent is here! The heritage of Jesus points us to many different figures in the Bible. We have already received the greatest gift ever given, which is Jesus Christ. As we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth in a couple of weeks, let us not forget those who have no family this season. Let us be mindful that as Christians we are called to do God's work wherever we go.

Questions

1. Name one member of Jesus' family tree who was listed in the scripture passage.
2. What is one way you can share your faith to someone else during the Advent season?

3. Discuss a time when a family member helped you during a difficult moment. How can you pay it forward?

Praise God!!!

Praise God that we were reminded today that we are a part of God's family. We are connected through Jesus Christ and we are called to do God's work. There is a pop song that was written in the 70's called, "We Are Family." As we listen to the song, think of some of the images that come to mind when you listen to the lyrics. Does it sound like a joyous song or one of sadness? When the song is over, take some time and share what you felt or imagined when you heard the song playing.

Closing Prayer

God of love, we give you thanks for all people. We thank you that you promise to never leave or forsake us. Thank you for the gift of family in all of its various forms. Thank you for friends that have become family and our church family. Remind us of all the ways that you love and care for us. Give us a heart for people. Help us to be the change we want to see in the world. Amen.

CALLED TO FORM A FAMILY

LESSON SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 1:18-25

FOCUS SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 1:18-24

Key Verses: "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. . . . She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:20-21

Matthew 1:18-24 (NRSV)

18 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.

19 Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.

20 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.

21 She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

22 All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

23 "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

24 When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife,...

WORD POWER!!!

- **Engaged** – Pledged to be married.
- **Disgrace** – An act that causes shame.
- **Resolved** – Determined, filled with purpose.
- **Fiancée** – A woman engaged to be married.

Getting Ready!!!

Have you ever been given a job to do, but the task may have seemed too great? In today's lesson, we will focus on the life of Joseph, the husband of Mary. With the blessing of their families, Joseph was engaged to marry Mary. The town knew that this was going to happen, but then an interesting twist occurred. Mary became pregnant by the Holy Spirit and now Joseph had to make a choice.

Joseph, not knowing exactly what to do, was given a message from God in a dream. The dream instructed him to go ahead and marry Mary and that the son she would bear would be named Jesus. Joseph obeyed God, took Mary as his wife, and named the child Jesus just as he was instructed. Joseph's faith and trust in God allowed him to answer the call on his life to be Jesus' earthly father and the husband of Mary. Joseph helped to create and form Jesus' family by accepting the call on his life to serve in this honorable role. Joseph could have chosen another route for his life; however, his willingness and obedience caused Joseph to live righteously with Mary, and form one of the most well-known families to have ever existed.

Into God's Word!!!

Has God ever asked you to do something, but you did not want to do it? Imagine how Joseph may have felt knowing that the local townspeople would talk about him because his

fiancée was pregnant? Joseph, however, followed the message of God and didn't allow the world's view to blind him from the promise that God had for him and Mary. Jesus, whose name means "Yahweh saves," was the greatest gift ever given not only to that family, but to us as well.

Though Joseph was afraid and apprehensive to agree to stay engaged to Mary, he pushed his feelings aside and created a family and a heritage for Jesus that would shape and form Jesus' human life. While many of us will never have to make a choice like this, we are still called to believe and trust God at all times, even when we don't fully understand God's plan.

Imagine being nervous and scared, but then God gives you a message in a dream to ease all of your anxiety. The angel of the Lord came to Joseph and did just that! The angel told Joseph not be afraid and to follow the plans Joseph had proposed to do before Mary got pregnant.

Activity: Take a couple of moments and act out the scenes from the scripture passage today. Using facial expressions and gestures, show how Joseph may have responded when he got the news that Mary was pregnant. Include what Joseph may have felt after he received God's message in a dream. If you had to draw a picture using this scene, what would it look like? If time permits, draw a picture of the scene in this story.

Using God's Word!!!

Joseph, being a righteous man, did not want to disgrace Mary when he heard of the news of her pregnancy. Joseph intended to quietly dismiss Mary so that both of their honors would be intact. However, God had other plans for Joseph. Joseph was to become one of the role models for Jesus, and provide Jesus with the loving earthly family that he needed.

What do you think would have happened if Joseph had decided to leave Mary and go another way? While we will never know, we can rest assured that Joseph's "yes" empowers us to say "yes" to God even in difficult situations. We see in this story that in one of Joseph's most questionable times, God provided the answer that he needed, and Joseph didn't even have to ask the question! God knows and hears us even when we do not call on God. God is omnipresent which means "everywhere at the same time." This means that we can always experience God because God is with us, *Emmanuel*.

Can you think of a time that you felt afraid or uncertain, but God helped you feel better? Since God is with us no matter where we are, God is always available to us. God's messages can come in many different forms. For Joseph, an angel of the Lord brought the message Joseph needed to hear. For us, it could come from a loved one, our time in prayer, or however God chooses to speak to us. When you feel like you need answers, remember that God is always waiting to hear you and speak to you.

As we continue in this Advent season leading up to Christ's birth, let us remember the role and sacrifice that Joseph made. Let us remember the role that each one of us plays in telling the account of Jesus' birth, and the true meaning of Christmas. If time permits, read the other angelic account about Jesus' birth found in Luke 1:26-38.

Remix!!!

With God's help and the message of an angel, Joseph pushed past his fear and decided to continue his relationship with Mary and they eventually got married. Joseph's righteous nature allowed him to be open to hearing God's voice even while he was sleeping. This week, find some time to talk to God about something that is troubling you, or a question

you may have. Ask God to give you direction and insight which would be helpful for you to move forward.

Questions

1. What does *Emmanuel* mean? What does the name *Jesus* mean?
2. To whom do you talk when you are uncertain or have questions?
3. What happened when Joseph fell asleep?

Praise God!!!

Take a few moments and think about the main characters in this biblical story. Each person had an important promise and role to fulfill to form the family that God intended. What has/is God calling you to do? Take some time this week to ask your family and friends to tell you something that you do well. After they respond, figure out a way you can utilize that skill or talent to bless someone else.

Closing Prayer

God of all understanding, we give you thanks for listening to us when we call to you. God, sometimes we look at the problems around us, and not to you, the giver of solutions. Help us, O God, to be reminded of your sovereignty even in a world filled with confusion. Remind us this week that you see and know all. Remind us that we are not forgotten, and we are a part of a greater family. Amen.