

God's Word Gives Our Lives Direction



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Pastor John Knoester

Worship Services
10:30 A.M.
6:30 P.M.
Church School: 9:30 A.M.
September—May



December 13, 2020

The Loop System is provided for those using hearing devices by using the telephone mode on your device. This is available beginning in row 5 on either side of the sanctuary.

Welcome to First Christian Reformed Church!
December 13, 2020
Candlelight Service - 6:30 PM

Dear Friends,

The genealogy in Matthew 1 provides us with a list of “light bearers.” These are the various saints who God used to prepare the way until Jesus, the true Light of the world, came into the world. In this service we walk through Matthew’s genealogy and highlight a few of the light bearers he lists. We do this through Scripture readings and songs that help us see why their particular light shone so brightly.

In the reading of Matthew 1:1-17 we will meet 46 people whose lifetimes span 2,000 years. Each candle we light represents one of these 46 people – all ancestors of Jesus. And although they varied considerably in personality, spirituality, and experience, all were used by God to fulfill the prophecies about the Messiah’s line.

Tonight, we take time to remember these ‘light bearers.’ Yet, most importantly, we gather here tonight to worship the One True Light. The One who said, “I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12). ... May God bless us as we worship Him together this evening.

In His Everlasting Love, Pastor John

Roll Call of Light Bearers from Matthew 1

Note: The service tonight will proceed unannounced

** Please stand in body or in spirit*

Prelude

Processional Carol: “Christmas Canon” – Trans-Siberian Orchestra

(As this hymn is being played the Christ Candle is brought down the center aisle and placed on the table)

Welcome/Announcements

* Call to Worship: (Based on Isaiah 9:2)

Leader: We gather in preparation

People: for good news is about to be proclaimed.

Leader: We gather in expectation

People: for joy is about to explode in our midst.

Leader: We gather in celebration

**People: for we are those people who have said
yes to the manger,
yes to love enfleshed,
yes to the one incarnate for others,
yes to the wholeness of God.**

Leader: The people walking in darkness have seen
a great light;

**People: on those living in the land of the shadow
of death a light has dawned.**

Leader: Jesus Christ is our life and light.

**People: In his name and in his power,
let us worship God!**
—based on Isaiah 9:2, NIV

Song of Response: “*O Holy Night*” – Josh Groban

Roll Call of Light Bearers

Roll Call of Light Bearers – Reading of Matthew 1:1-17

*(As the narrators read each person’s name
a candle is lit to represent them.)*

The Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah

Narrator #1: **1** This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:
2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,
3 Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram,
4 Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon,
5 Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab,

Narrator #2: **Boaz** the father of Obed, whose mother was **Ruth**, Obed the father of Jesse,
6 and Jesse the father of King David.

Narrator #1: **David** was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,
7 Solomon the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa,
8 Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram, Jehoram the father of Uzziah,
9 Uzziah the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,

Narrator #2: **10 Hezekiah** the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, Amon the father of Josiah,
11 and Josiah the father of Jeconiah^[c] and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon.
12 After the exile to Babylon: Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel,

Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,
¹³ Zerubbabel the father of Abihud,
Abihud the father of Eliakim,
Eliakim the father of Azor,
¹⁴ Azor the father of Zadok,
Zadok the father of Akim,
Akim the father of Elihud,
¹⁵ Elihud the father of Eleazar,
Eleazar the father of Matthan,
Matthan the father of Jacob,

Narrator #1: ¹⁶ and **Jacob** the father of Joseph,
the husband of **Mary**,
and Mary was the mother of Jesus
who is called the Messiah.
¹⁷ Thus there were fourteen generations in all
from Abraham to David,
fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon,
and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.

Song of Preparation: *"Sussex Carol"* – Elaine Hagenburg

Prayer of Illumination

Meditation: ***"Aren't These Just a Bunch of Names?"***

Prayer of Application

Song of Reflection: *"Sweetest Music, Softly Stealing"*
- Elaine Hagenburg

Reflections on Past Light Bearers

- *The narrators read the names again, stopping at various points
as indicated below for Scripture and song.
During the ensuing song the candles representing
each person's name is extinguished.*

<u>Abraham</u>
Abraham: Genesis 12:1-4, 15:17-21

Boaz and Ruth

Boaz and Ruth: Ruth 1:15-19, 4:13-17

Hymn: *“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”* – Selah

David

David - II Samuel 7:4-17

Hezekiah

Hezekiah - II Kings 18:1-8

*Hymn: *“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”*

Joseph and Mary

Joseph and Mary - Luke 1:26-38

Song: *“One Still Night”* – Sovereign Grace

Jesus

Jesus - Matthew 1:18-25

Song: *“Welcome to Our World”* – Michael W. Smith

Our Response and Candle Lighting

Scripture Reading: **Luke 2:8-20**

*Song of Response: *“All Praise to Thee”* - Elaine Hagenburg

During this hymn candle lighters will come down the aisles.

Please turn your candle to light it from one already lit.

*Please keep your candles upright and the light
will then be spread throughout our church family.*

*Closing Prayer and Blessing

*Closing Hymn: *“Silent Night”* – Josh Groban

* Postlude

(Please extinguish your candle before leaving your bench.)

Participants:

Narrators: Pastor John & Pastor Borst

Candle Lighters (Stage): Kera B. and Franchesca B.

Candle Lighters (Pews): Hannah & Kayla Van Hofwegen;
Caitlin Vander Kooy

Abraham Reading: Greg Boon

Ruth & Boaz Reading: Mardick and Jill Stevens

David Reading: Henry Hammingh

Hezekiah Reading: Josh Hammingh

Joseph & Mary Reading: Dennis and Melba DeKok

Jesus Reading: Bradley DeKok

Our Response Reading: Eliot Blom and Marjo Rouw

Organist: Jill Klunder

Sound System: Henry Van Zanten, Jr.

Projection: Tim Hibma

Lights: Clarence Klunder

