Introduction
1. Prepare our hearts to celebrate Christ's coming.
   - Not trite, not commercialism, not
   - Devote the Incarnation,
     God's entry into our world as Redeemer.

2. From Matthew's Gospel
   - Like the others, the account of what God can
     show.
   - With the unique stamp of Matthew,
     - Specific and detailed
     - Full of teaching.
     - Quirky to the core.
     - Very much Old Testament.
     - Underlining the face of Jesus
       coming as Messiah.

Starts with the Family Tree
"The Book of the Genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of
David, the son of Abraham." - Omitting the
- 3 series of 14 names each within custom
  - long or dull or true. Write your name.
1. Jesus Enters a Concrete Family Situation

- A Jewish Family
  - The people of Einstein, Heide and Marx
  - People that were occupied by freedoms
  - People with a stubborn sense of God
  - People that long for the coming of the Messiah

- Became part of their families' problems
  - Un, Grief, and Honors
  - Un, Dishonor and Skeletons
  - Difficulties in living together

2. Stalkers: Man as the Loser. Mean

  Nothing until he says he is your brother. Then Disbelief or Joy or
  Reaction.

- Jesus knew Reaction as Part of His family
3. The Names in the Family Tree

- The Great Names
  - Abraham and David
  - Solomon and Zipporah
- Most Familiar Names
  - Bathsheba - David's wife stolen from Uriah.
  - Hana - Her name better
  - Phoebe - A Harlot
  - Ruth - A lovely woman, she met a Jew.

- Why find these names in?
  - A cause have been avoided.
  - Stories were going around abroad.
  - God has overcome all these.
  - His triumphant Grace has overcome.

- A thing to crow out of our history.
  - Its glory and its shame
  - Its strength and its weakness.
3. What Has He to Say to Us?

- Christ and Our Family Situation
  - Some scandal, some disgrace, some skeleton.
  - Some cleat share, some bitterness, some brothermen.
  - Christ can enter our situation and overcome it.

- I can belong to His family
  - Regardless of who I am and where I come from.
  - I enter His family because of humility and faith.

- He is, worth Christmas, I am all alone.
- More - He is, worth Communion, I am all alone.
- Other Family of Christ
- Gratitude that I am a part of it.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Greetings

2. Evening Service - Gertrude Helenmark

3. Family Dinner -- W.M.S. and Men's Fellowship, Friday, December 8, Fellowship Hall. Reservations called to ED 4-7686 by Wednesday morning.

4. Candle of Joy -- Bob Lewis - Adult Department
Drinking the Cup:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

While we were yet helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Why, one will hardly die for a righteous man — though perhaps for a good man one will dare even to die. But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.
Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.
A voice cries: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

He will feed his flock like a shepherd, he will gather the lambs in his arms, he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

but they that wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.