**Home Service Sheet for Sunday 9th February 2025**

**Call To Worship                  2 Timothy 3:16-17**

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

**Opening Prayer**

Loving God, we praise You and glorify You because You have made Yourself known to us. In Your Word You have taught us about Your character and show us all that You have done for us. Through Your Word You encourage us and challenge us, You sharpen us and correct us so that we might become more and more like Your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Father, we confess that we still fail You, ignoring the clear teachings of Your Word from time to time. Forgive us our sins we pray and help us to repent of them so that we might live in faith and obedience to You. This we ask for Your praise and glory, amen.

**Hymn:**                                  **O the deep, deep love of Jesus**by *Aurelius C. Prudentius*

<https://youtu.be/xT7nBIt-QLk?si=kq1tCqQJcZekgS9f>

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, vast, unmeasured, boundless, free!

Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me,

Underneath me, all around me, is the current of Thy love;

Leading onward, leading homeward to my glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, spread His praise from shore to shore!

How He loveth, ever loveth, changeth never, nevermore:

How He watches o’er His loved ones, died to call them all His own:

How for them He intercedeth, watcheth o’er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, love of every love the best;

‘Tis an ocean vast of blessing ‘tis a haven sweet of rest,

O the deep, deep love of Jesus, ‘tis a heaven of heavens to me;

And it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts me up to Thee.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Bible Reading                     Luke 3:23-38**

 Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age, being the son (as was supposed) of Joseph, the son of Heli, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Jannai, the son of Joseph, the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Esli, the son of Naggai, the son of Maath, the son of Mattathias, the son of Semein, the son of Josech, the son of Joda, the son of Joanan, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri, the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmadam, the son of Er, the son of Joshua, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonam, the son of Eliakim, the son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David, the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Sala, the son of Nahshon, the son of Amminadab, the son of Admin, the son of Arni, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah, the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor, the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah, the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech, the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalaleel, the son of Cainan, the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

**Reflection**

When we read right through books of the Bible, occasionally we come across passages that are particularly difficult to understand, or sometimes even passages that we may wonder why they are even there in the first place. Today’s Bible reading is just one of those such passages, and it would be very tempting to just skip over it and turn straight to chapter 4 of Luke’s Gospel. However, if we were to do that we would be denying the wonderful truth that is revealed to us in Paul’s second letter to Timothy, “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16 & 17)

In writing that “all Scripture” is breathed out by God, Paul means all Scripture, including passages that are purely family trees, or genealogies. Every single passage of the Bible has been inspired by the Holy Spirit and is there so that we might learn from it. Just note what Paul says about the Scriptures. They are “profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.” Scripture helps us to learn more about God and helps us to know Him. God uses His Word to set us on the right path of holiness and righteousness, convicting us of sin and turning us away from that which is less glorious. Paul concludes by writing that through these means we are made complete by God ready for all that He calls His people to do. Let’s keep that in mind as we consider these verses today.

Luke begins in verse 23 by telling us that Jesus was about thirty years old when he began His public ministry, having been baptised by John. In Luke’s account we last heard about Jesus when He was 12 years old and remained in Jerusalem following the Passover festival. Since then, a further 18 or so years had passed. We are not told exactly what Jesus had been doing during this time, though it is clear that whatever it was had prepared Him for His public ministry. Having given us that information, Luke launches into a lengthy family tree for Jesus, except, as Luke notes, this was only supposed. Joseph was not His biological father, because His was not a natural conception. Rather the Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary and she became pregnant. Theologically, we know that Jesus was both fully man and fully God, but we do not know what this meant genetically. We don’t need to know, but it doesn’t stop us wondering from time to time.

Luke, however, shows us the lineage that Jesus would have been assumed to have, even as an adopted son of Joseph. We’re not going to think about every individual named in this genealogy, because if we did that would take a very long time! As is often the case with these lists, there are quite a number of people about who we know little, if anything. Certainly, the first few names of Joseph’s forefathers do not ring any bells that we know from elsewhere in the Scriptures. However, by the time we get down to verse 27, there are a couple of names that we should recognise from the Old Testament book of Ezra. Zerubbabel was born in Babylon, but was allowed to go back to Israel by King Cyrus II with his countryman. He went on to became an influential governor, as the prophet Haggai tells us.

Jesus’ family line included godly individuals and kings at various stages, and shows God’s hand at work throughout the centuries, causing things to happen just as He had planned. Further down the list we come to King David, the godly king who the Scriptures describe as a man after God’s own heart. David came from the line of the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and the tribe of Judah. Yet, we should also note that his ancestry included Boaz, who married the Moabite, Ruth. God overruled for good in this line which would ultimately produce the man who would help raise and care for Jesus as an infant. God is not limited by human will or the edicts of powerful kings and nations, but rather rules sovereignly over them all.

In verse 38 we come on to the final human ancestor, Adam, who is described as ‘the son of God’. Adam was created by God from the soil of God’s creation – the literal meaning of Adam’s name in Hebrew being ‘Earth creature.’ Yet Adam is not the son of God in the way that Jesus is. Jesus was not created; He was and is the Word. The apostle John wrote, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” (John 1:1-5) Jesus is God the Son, but not in the same sense that each of those referred to by Luke was a son of someone. Amen!

**Prayer**

 Heavenly Father, as we have read Your Word today, we have learnt an important lesson by the fact that the Lord Jesus Himself was required to wait until He was about 30 years of age before He began the work that You prepared for Him to do. All too often we want things to happen now, rather than next month, next year or at some point in the future. Today we pray that we may be willing to learn the lessons You would teach us, waiting for Your perfect timing in our lives. Grant to us patience and hearts that are obedient to You. Gracious God, we kneel in awe and wonder as we contemplate Who You are and what You have done for us. Seeing Your perfect plan travelling through the generations of Jesus' genealogy is absolutely amazing. You are worthy of our eternal love and praise, forever and ever, amen.

**Benediction**

 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all this day and forevermore, amen.