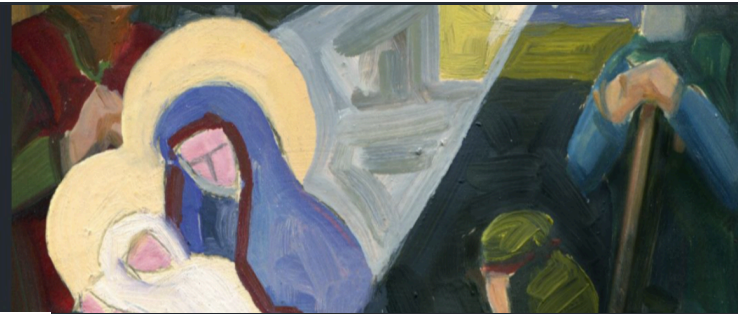


God with Us

2020 Be in Christ Advent Devotional



November 29

INCLUSIVE HOPE

Christina Gerber, The Meeting House, Brampton



Read *Roman 15:12*

Reflect Wow! This short verse contains so much!! Let's not miss it! Matthew begins his gospel with a thorough listing of the genealogy of Jesus, the "heir" of David – the one who it was foretold will sit on the throne forever and judge righteously.

One might expect such a king would have a pure lineage, one that is racially pure and morally spotless – but as we look, we are caught off guard by the names of Tamar, Rahab, Ruth and Uriah's wife, Bathsheba! Women – the second-class citizens of their time, were not usually named in a king's lineage! Not only that but each of these names represents a person who was exploited, or downtrodden, or a sinner – an outsider. Jesus' genealogy demonstrates not racial purity or moral uprightness, but rather the *range* and *reach* of God's redemptive plan. He opens a space of *inclusion* and *belonging*!

No wonder we Gentiles place our hope in Him!

This is the season of hope – the King of Righteousness has come, filled with grace and mercy, with a *place of belonging for you*. Wherever you find yourself this season, Jesus desires to pour His hope into your life. Won't you receive His gift today!

Pray *Jesus, thank you that your message is one of inclusion. This brings me hope. Thank you for making a place of belonging for me. Amen.*

Discussion Questions

FOR WEEK ONE, HOPE

1. What is your favourite Christmas memory? Why?
2. What is your favourite Christmas recipe or dish? Why?
3. Read the November 29th reflection written by Christine Barber called *Inclusive Hope*.
4. Read Matthew 1:1-17, Romans 15:12. What stands out to you? What is one key idea, question or thought?
5. How do you feel about Jesus' family tree is made up of many people who would normally be considered "second-class"? Does this give you confidence and/or hope? Discuss.
6. Share how you experience hope as a member of Jesus' extended family, and what you might be able to do this Christmas season to extend hope to someone else.
7. Spend some time praying together as a group.



BE IN CHRIST