



By [Glenn CJ Byer, MA SLD](#)

Family - it's all about family. The readings for the Vigil of Christmas make this one point clear, and we need to take it to heart. It sounds odd, almost invasive, but the first reading tells us that God has married us; we, as a people, are the bride of God. The covenant between God and us is an intimate one, for as Christians we believe that God knows us as well as our spouse. We are known by God in all our imperfections, God knows us and loves us as we are when our guard is down, as we are when we feel slighted or hurt or happy and filled with joy. And that is not all; God knows us this way because that is how God has always known us. The long genealogy of Christ is the proof that God has married into the entire family of humanity. God knows our ancestors, has been true to generation after generation of our family. It is important, then, that once a year we remind ourselves of the lineage we claim, for as brothers and sisters of Christ (so Paul tells us in the second reading) we have David and Abraham and Zadok and Achim and Eliud as our ancestors too. This is the covenant of the psalm, and so we shall sing for ever of God's goodness, God's nearness, God's love for us.

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