

The Wonder of the Name

Call to Worship:

One: We call his name Jesus.

All: Jesus has saved us from our sins.

One: We call his name Immanuel.

All: In Jesus we have found God with us.

One: We call him the Prince of Peace.

All: With Jesus we have found Shalom for our souls.

Prayer of Confession:

We have taken Your name in vain, when we have not loved our enemies nor prayed blessings upon those who have wished to harm us. We have taken Your name in vain, when we have not taken the time to consider the lilies of the field, nor the birds of the air. We have destroyed their habitat and trampled them underfoot unnoticed. We have taken Your name in vain, each time we have ignored the cries of those in need; each time we have walked on the other side of the road; whenever we have not gone out to the highways and byways to invite others to the feast of grace that You have prepared. Forgive us and instill within us the wonder of the name of Jesus. Amen.

Words of Grace:

One: When we confess our sins, Jesus is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and to cleanse us from all our unrighteousness. In the precious name of Jesus, you are forgiven.

All: In the precious name of Jesus, you are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

One: Embrace the name of Jesus and treat all you meet as Christ your Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Illumination:

Open Your holy words to our needy hearts. Speak as Your servants listen. Transform our lives as You reshape our lives to create something new and very good. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving:

One: Jesus is with you, in you, and among you.

All: You also are held in the embrace of Jesus.

One: Be open to receive the gifts of grace found only a relationship with Jesus.

All: We come with hearts and minds open to all Jesus seeks to bring into our lives.

One: Be of good cheer.

All: We are filled with rejoicing in our salvation found in Jesus' name.

One: We do rejoice in the saving grace You have generously poured out upon all flesh.

We are relieved that You turn no one away.

You alone empower us through Your prevenient grace:

to be open,

to ask questions,

even to make mistakes.

You alone soften our hearts so that Your presence might woo us.
You never give up on saving us from our sinful ways.
You perfect us in love, so that in the end, we might be like You,
turning none away and overflowing with graciousness.

Today we humble our hearts and join with all of creation to thank you.
Today we humble our hearts, and join with all those in heaven who worship around Your
glorious throne saying:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are filled with Your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed are all who come in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

One: You are truly holy, and so is Jesus whom You sent to dwell among us.
At the name of Jesus, every knee will bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord.
Jesus has shown us how to show forth Your compassion and generosity with others.
Jesus has shown us how to be forgiving, just like You,
even how to forgive those who seek to take our lives in ignorance.
Jesus has shown us that there was no one who is unimportant,
and that those society judges as insignificant are the dearest to Your heart.

Jesus has shown us that nothing was more important than grace,
when others fought over who was the greatest and most important,
Jesus said, "Not me," by leaving his seat of honor
and taking the place of the lowest slave.
Jesus then showed hospitality to all: those who betray you, those who deny friendship,
and those who desert you in your time of greatest need.
Remember that to Jesus, love is all that matters.

Jesus has shown us that nothing was more important than grace,
when he took the Passover bread,
used to recall the needs of the oppressed.
Jesus offered it first to God with prayers of gratitude, then to all, saying:
"Take, eat, this is my body, broken and given for you."
Remember that to Jesus, love is all that matters.

Jesus has shown us that nothing is more important than grace,
when he took the Passover cup,
used to recall the pain we have caused by our hardened hearts.
Jesus offered it first to God with prayers of gratitude, then to all, saying:
"Drink with me, each of you, for this is the cup of my blood,
which I pour out in celebration of God's eternal covenant,
establish with you and all creation, promising the forgiveness of sins."

Remember that to Jesus, love is all that matters.
We have experienced salvation in Jesus' name.
We know the power of God's infinite love through him,
and we desire our lives to reflect this holy mystery, we humbly declare:

**All: Out of love, Jesus died.
Out of love, Jesus lives.
Out of love, Jesus will come again.**

One: Holy Name, Gracious Name,
fill these gifts of bread and wine with Your presence
allowing them to become for us the body and blood of Jesus
a celebration of the grace found through his name.

Holy Name, Gracious Name,
fill the gift of our lives: body, mind, soul, and spirit with Your presence
allowing us to become for the world Your church,
the living body and faithful bride of Jesus,
a celebration of the grace found in his name.

Holy Name, Gracious Name,
pour out Your grace upon Ebenezer United Methodist Church.
We ask You to deepen Your compassion in our hearts.
Open our eyes to see You in the lives of others.
Awaken us to those You wish to experience the safety of Your presence through us.

We ask for these gifts only because of Jesus, who forgives us,
only because of the Holy Spirit, who calls and empowers us,
only with the creative imagination inspired in our lives by You,
the Lover of us all, ever faithful, and ever true. Amen.

Now as those who are filled with wonder at the name of Jesus, let us pray together the
words Jesus taught us to pray:

**All: 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 who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Prayer after Communion:

Thank You for sharing with us this holy mystery in the name of Jesus. In this
communion we have touched upon the wonder of his name. Now we desire to share this great
wonder with others. Send us out with Your blessing. Send us out with Your love. Use us in this
world as we seek to do no harm, do good, and express with joy our love and devotion to You in
the name of Jesus. Amen.