

God Beyond All Names Bernadette Farrell

God, beyond our dreams, you have stirred in us a mem'ry;
you have placed your pow'ful spirit in the hearts of human kind.

*All around us we have known you, all creation lives to hold you.
In our living and our dying we are bringing you to birth.*

God, beyond all names, you have made us in your image;
we are like you, we reflect you, we are woman, we are man.

God, beyond all words, all creation tells your story;
you have shaken with our laughter, you have trembled with our tears.

God, beyond all time, you are laboring within us;
we are moving, we are changing in your spirit ever new.

God of tender care, you have cradled us in goodness,
you have mothered us in wholeness, you have loved us into birth.

Thank You For Joining Us!

Prayer Leader:

Cheryl Keehner, CSA
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What Shall We Call Him?



Our prayer is characterized
by silence ~

Be still and know that I am God!

In that silence we listen for a new word.
God is present in all our lives.
God cares for us, and
our life experiences are a source
of deepening knowledge of God and self.

Inspired by God's Word in the silence
we share from our hearts.

To Ponder: Cheryl Kuehner, CSA

One of the challenges new parents meet is naming their child. Should they choose a “family” name? How can they explain their choice, making two sets of grandparents pleased? Shouldn’t the name have a meaning or a story behind it? What does the name sound like? Can a preschooler spell it? And what about nick-names? There’s so much to consider. Who would have thought?

I imagine that Mary and Joseph, adjusting to the mystery surrounding their child, spent time thinking about what they would name the baby? Perhaps they considered someone from Joseph’s ancestry: Jacob – the name of Joseph’s dad. Joachim – Mary’s father? What about “bible names:” Jesse, David, Solomon? A hero’s name might raise too many expectations for the little tyke.

Common names in Galilee at that time included Simon, James, Joseph, Mark. Peter meant “rock” and Mark was a derivative of Mars, the god of war. Clearly, they agree, their first born son needs a special name.

In Biblical tradition God uses names to define a person’s mission. He changes names to mark a milestone and redirect a person’s life and here’s where the angel comes in: “You will call the child “Jesus” she announces,” because he will save his people from their sins”. Jesus’ mission is clear. He comes into the world to address the needs of the poor, to challenge civil and religious authority, and by freeing people from bondage of sin, lead them to “fullness of life.”

In the centuries since the time of Jesus’ birth he has been called by many names. What has Jesus done for you? What would you call him?

Reading adapted from a prayer by John Cardinal Newman

Radiant Creator, awaken me to your presence.
Jesus, Light of Lights, kindle love in my heart.
Word made flesh, give me words to speak of you.
Spirit of Illumination, guide my daily path.

Emmanuel, you are Everlasting Light.
Help me bring your love everywhere I go.
Possess my whole being so that all my life
will be a radiance of you.

Shine through me so that everyone I meet
will feel your presence in my spirit.
Let them look and see, not just me, but you.

Light of all Lights, shine through me. Amen.



Sharing...

a word...

a phrase...

a reflection...