

Names of God

Summary: This was written to be used for a Christmas service. Reading a paragraph between songs. It weaves the various names of God and their meanings into the Christmas season. Bringing the full picture of what Christmas is about.

Opening Video (1:45)

<https://www.playbackmedia.com/mini-movies/144664/names-of-jesus>

John 1:1,14a Isaiah 55:11b (the Word)

In the beginning the Word already existed, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became human and made His home among us. So shall my Word go forth and it shall not return to Me empty. But my Word shall accomplish that which I please and purpose and it shall prosper in what I sent it to do.

This morning we will be exploring various names of God through readings, stories and songs. This was written to be used during the Christmas season. As we hear passages between songs, it weaves the various names of God and their meanings into the Christmas season, bringing the full picture of what Christmas is about. Some of the songs you may know and some may be new, however please join in where you can.

Invocation

Song: O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant (4:00)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yt2OswwsZaRE>

2 Kings 6:14-17 (God of Angel Armies)

One night the king of Aram sent a great army with many chariots and horses to surround the city. When the servant of the man of God got up early the next morning and went outside, there were troops, horses, and chariots everywhere. “Oh sir what will we do now?” “Don’t be afraid”, Elisha told him, “for there are more on our side than on theirs. Oh, Lord, God of the Angel Armies, open his eyes and let him see”.

We know the stories of Jericho, Gideon, Jehoshaphat where God fought for His people and they miraculously won. Today we still hear of God’s Angel Armies. In his book “Angels”, Billy Graham relates the story told by Reverend John G. Paton, a trail-blazing missionary in the South Pacific Islands. One night Paton and his wife found themselves threatened by hostile natives who surrounded their mission headquarters. The Patons thought for sure that the natives would burn down the headquarters and kill them both. They prayed throughout the night asking God to protect them from harm. The next morning they were astonished when they realized that the natives had gone away. They had no idea where or why they had left. The missionaries again prayed and thanked the Lord for saving them. About a year later, the

chief of the native tribe who had threatened them became a Christian. He came to visit the Patons. When he was asked about the incident of that night of terror, the chief told the Patons that he and his men were too fearful to carry out their plans of attack. They had seen an army of giant men in “shining garments with drawn swords in their hands” surrounding the mission grounds. Paton and the chief agreed that there was no explanation other than that God had sent angels to keep the missionaries from harm. He was then and still is, the God of Angel Armies.

Song : Whom Shall I Fear [The God of Angel Armies] (4:28)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0gu0nOaFsl>

Genesis 16:13 (El-Roi - The God who sees me)

She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: “You are the God who sees me,” for she said, “I have now seen the One who sees me.”

When Abraham sent Hagar and Ishmael away and she sat down in the desert to watch her son die, she cried out to God and he provided food and water. In worship she responded “you are El Roi - the God who sees me”. Not as a watchful eye to see where and when we mess up, but a God who sees our unformed body being knit together fearfully and wonderfully. He knows when we sit down and when we stand up. The one who numbers the very hairs on our heads. The God who counts our tears and stores them in a bottle. He sees you and treasures every part of you.

Song When Hope Came Down (4:17)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0wxoAcc78k>

Genesis 22:7-13 (Jehovah Jireh- The Lord is my provider)

Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?” “Yes, my son?” Abraham replied. “The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together. When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

Abraham raised his knife.... and the Lord provided. A sacrifice. He provided a perfect lamb, unblemished and Holy for Abraham. During the Christmas season, we are reminded that He provided a sacrifice for me, for you, for each of us. The baby Jesus, born on Christmas day was to become the ultimate sacrifice for us all.

Song El Shaddai (God Almighty) (4:00)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_qJMI95lb9k

Exodus 3:13-15 (YHWH - I am who I am)

Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?” God said to Moses, “I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I am has sent me to you.’” God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’ ‘This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation.

Moses asked who do I tell them that you are? God gave Moses his personal name. In attempts of translating we say Yahweh, but how do you say YHWH when there are no vowels? To say it correctly you don't use your tongue and you don't close your mouth. His name imitates the natural act of breathing as you inhale and exhale. YH...WH, YH...WH The first word you have ever spoken, when you came out of your mother's womb, was the personal name of God. YH..WH And the last word you will ever speak in this life, the last breath you take YH...WH Imagine when you are sad and you sigh, YH...WH, when your heart is broken and you don't know what to say and all you can do is sob and gasp for breath, you're calling out His name. YH...WH YH...WH

Song Blessed be your Name (3:50)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p7BH1PiuCT0>

Psalm 23 & 139:5 (Shepherd)

The Lord is my Shepherd, I have all that I need. He leads me to peaceful streams. When I walk through the dark valleys, I don't need to fear because he is close beside me. He anoints my head with oil, for healing and protection. His goodness and unfailing love pursue me all my days. Did you catch that? He leads me, He is in front of me. He's close beside me in the dark times. He anoints my head, meaning he is over top of me. And he pursues me, meaning he's behind me. David said He hems me in behind and before, I am surrounded by your presence, such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand.

Song Cornerstone (3:21)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DnRwGwQqUDI>

Luke 23:46 (Father)

Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”[a] When he had said this, he breathed his last.

Jesus showed us the side of God he knew intimately, Father. We think of Father as formal and stiff, not personal and intimate. But in actuality it translates more like Daddy, Papa. The night before He was crucified, He cried out Papa.. please... His last words on the cross were Father, I did it, it is finished. But he didn't just introduce us to the Father, He said I want to bring you in as brothers and sisters, so that He is your Abba, your Father too.

Song King of Kings (4:25)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Of5lcFWiEpg>

Names of God - Message

Different names tell different stories. Because we are but a breath, we can not grasp the magnitude of God. These names reveal God's character and His heart for us. During this season we celebrate Jesus' birth which reveals His names: Messiah, Savior, Lamb of God, Good Shepherd, Light of the World, Bread of Life & Emmanuel - God with us. God is with us. God the word, becoming flesh, so He could be our Jehovah Jireh our provider, Jehovah Rapha our healer, Jehovah Shalom our peace. Emmanuel - God with us! So hear this Golden Grove Lutheran Church, the Lord is with us. Let us worship his holy name!

Song 10,000 Reasons (with offering) (4:20)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XtwIT8JjddM>

Prayers

Blessing

Song Joy to the World (2:43)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TX6ThHbts5Y>

Announcements

End screen Song I believe

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d7PRGMQxNcM>