

THURSDAY MORNING PRAYER

Gathering

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Your light springs up for the righteous
and all the peoples have seen your glory. Alleluia.

Hymn Lord Prepare me to be a Sanctuary/How Great Thou Art

Word

Luke 1.26-33

^{1.26} In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
Thanks be to God.

Table Discussion

An angel named Gabriel, a town called Nazareth, a man named Joseph, a virgin whose name was Mary, a child to be named Jesus and called the Son of the Most High...

Names in this short passage serve to identify the characters. But they do more than that: they mean to tell us something about those characters.

Our names often have meanings: for instance, "Mary" means "sea of sorrow;" "Jesus" means "saviour." Sometimes our names reveal our geographic origins, for example, "Brownhill," or our family trade, such as "Boulangier" ("Baker"). Some of us are named

for our ancestors or other people our parents admired. Some of us receive new names throughout our lifetime, conferred by our community to describe us, or our changing role. [Example]. And in many indigenous communities traditional names are being reclaimed.

The theme of this General Synod is “I have called you by name.”

In your table group:

1. Share with each other a story of your own name.

Hymn I have called you by your name

Litany

Everlasting Light of creation, may your people in all world
worship in spirit and in truth.

Holy One, shine upon us and hear us.

May the church discover that unity which is your will.

Holy One, shine upon us and hear us.

May the nations of the earth seek after the ways that make for peace.

Holy One, shine upon us and hear us.

May the whole creation be set free
to enjoy the glorious liberty of your children.

Holy One, shine upon us and hear us.

May all who with Christ have entered the shadow of death
rest in peace and rise in glory.

Holy One, shine upon us and hear us.

The Lord's Prayer

Believing in the promises of God
and gathering our prayers and praises
into the many languages God has given us,
let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

or

**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,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Sending

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.