



Solemn Assembly

Jan 5-11, 2019

What a Beautiful Name It Is

*You were the Word at the beginning
One with God the Lord Most High
Your hidden glory in creation
Now revealed in you our Christ*

*What a beautiful name it is (x2)
The name of Jesus Christ my King*

*What a beautiful name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a beautiful name it is
The name of Jesus*

*You didn't want heaven without us
So Jesus you brought heaven down
My sin was great, Your love was greater
What could separate us now*

*What a wonderful name it is (x2)
The name of Jesus Christ my King*

*What a wonderful name it is
Nothing compares to this
What a wonderful name it is
The name of Jesus*

*Death could not hold you, the veil tore before you
You silenced the boast, of sin and grave
The heavens are roaring, the praise of your glory
For you are raised to life again*

*You have no rival, You have no equal
Now and forever, Our God reigns
Yours is the Kingdom, Yours is the glory
Yours is the name, above all names*

*What a powerful name it is (x2)
The name of Jesus Christ my King*

*What a powerful name it is
Nothing can stand against
What a powerful name it is
The name of Jesus*

Ben Fielding and Brooke Ligertwood
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Praise the Name of Jesus

*Praise the name of Jesus
Praise the name of Jesus
He's my rock, He's my fortress
He's my deliverer
In Him will I trust
Praise the name of Jesus*

*We praise your name Lord Jesus
We praise your name Lord Jesus
You're my rock, You're my fortress
You're my deliverer
In you will I trust
We praise your name Lord Jesus*

Roy Hicks Jr.
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*Those who know
your name
trust in you.*

Psalm 9:10

A New Year is a Gift

... and as a church family, at the outset of this New Year, we choose to intentionally pause for a week devoted to prayer. A week to set the tone and trajectory of 2019!

As disciples of Jesus, our prayer is to know Him better and love Him. So we begin by **fixing our eyes on Jesus**. He is our center and He is our source. Scripture gives us the gift of knowing Jesus not only through what He said and did, but also through His many names.

In Scripture, names identify someone, and reflect that person's character. This week as we listen and talk to God in prayer, we will be focusing on one of Jesus' names each day.

As our awe for Jesus increases, we know we will be moved in fresh ways to be His ambassadors everywhere we go—our **workplaces, neighborhoods, homes** and possibly to **far-away places** where the name of Jesus isn't even known.

Let's ask Jesus to make us people of unusual confidence, joy and action. People that are never afraid because we believe that Jesus, *the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End*, is weaving a redemptive story of good through all of history and through the story of our own lives.

We long to obediently participate in bringing the **beauty, justice, kindness, hope, and love** that always erupts when, "*His Kingdom comes and His will is done on earth as it is in heaven.*"

Schedule

Alpha and Omega

Saturday, Jan 5 | During service | 7 pm

Sunday, Jan 6 | During service | 9 or 10:45 am

Bread of Life Monday, Jan 7

Open House of Prayer | 8:30 am–6 pm

Prayer Gathering | 7-8:30 pm

Rabboni Tuesday, Jan 8

Open House of Prayer | 8:30 am–6 pm

Tuesday Noon Hour Prayer | 11:45 am–1 pm

Prayer Gathering | 7-8:30 pm

Morning Star Wednesday, Jan 9

Open House of Prayer | 8:30 am–6 pm

Seminar | 5:30-6:45 pm (*registration required; free; supper provided*)

Knowing God's Heart While Praying with Others: Refresh and practice our understanding when we pray with and for other people.

Prayer Gathering | 7-8:30 pm

Servant Thursday, Jan 10

Open House of Prayer | 8:30 am–6 pm

Prayer Gathering | 7-8:30 pm

King of kings Friday, Jan 11

Open House of Prayer | 8:30 am–5 pm

Potluck Dinner and Celebration Gathering | 6-8:30 pm

*Open House of Prayer and Prayer Gatherings
will be held in the Auditorium.*

Ways to Engage

For some, coming to the church building for Solemn Assembly doesn't fit with work and life schedules. However, you can still engage with your church in a number of important ways as you work through this prayer guide. Here are some options:

Prayer Requests Submit a prayer request online. These will be prayed for during our week. spac.ca/prayer

Prayer Drive Whether you're on your way to work, school, gym or to the store, use this time to intentionally pray for the people or communities represented.

Prayer Walk Walk through your neighbourhood, apartment building, office building and pray for the individuals and/or businesses.

Over Coffee Work through the book on your own and arrange to meet a friend for lunch or coffee to discuss it and spend time praying together.

Small Groups/Table Groups If you're a part of School of Discipleship, DayBreak or another small group, considering coming to Solemn Assembly when you would normally meet.

For Families We've created a kid-friendly booklet for the week so you can join in the themes with your family.

Resources *Praying the Names of Jesus*, by Ann Sprangler. Other resources are available on our website. spac.ca/solemnassembly

Alpha and Omega

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

Revelation 22:13

Predictions and resolutions. It's that time of year. Newsfeeds and magazine stands are filled with predictions about how our collective story might unfold—politically, economically and socially.

Resolutions are another matter, and although they often get a bad rap, they're a place we all recognize our power to affect the course of our own story. In a sense, we get to choose how this next chapter of our story will unfold. Not always what might happen but how we will respond, what kind of people we will become, and how we will influence those around us.

As followers of Christ, He invites us to a unique and life-giving perspective—turn our

focus first to God and with the Psalmist say, *I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With Him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.* **Psalm 16:8**

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I've been part of this church for over 50 years and prayer has always been at the center of what God is doing. I'm so grateful for Solemn Assembly.

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In Revelation 22, Jesus reveals Himself as the *Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.* Alpha is the first letter of the

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Greek alphabet and Omega is the last. There is not a single word that will be written this year in the story of our planet that will take God by surprise. He sees all, knows all, and is sovereign over all. He has promised that He can work every single thing that will happen together for good within the grand narrative that He is writing. He was here before the story began and He will be fully in control as His story reaches its climax and Christ returns.

And what about our individual stories—this new chapter that will unfold in each of our lives—the story of 2019? What if your first resolve was to ask Jesus what He wants? He is the Alpha and Omega who knows your story completely. He is the *One who began a good work in you and He will complete it. **Philippians 1:6*** He sees, in advance, the good things that He created you to do in this year. What posture is He inviting you to take as you begin this new year?

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Hebrews 12:1-3

All glory to Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by shedding His blood for us. He has made us a Kingdom of priests for God His Father. All glory and power to Him forever and ever! Amen. Look! He comes with the clouds of heaven. And everyone will see Him— even those who pierced Him. And all the nations of the world will mourn for Him. Yes! Amen! “I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end,” says the Lord God. “I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One.”

Revelation 1:5-8

Church Family

Jesus, knowing you are the Alpha and Omega, I also pray now for our church family asking you to ...

Horizontal lines for writing.

The World

Jesus, knowing you are the Alpha and Omega, I also pray now for the world you so dearly love, asking you to ...

Horizontal lines for writing.



Bread of Life

Then Jesus declared, "I am the Bread of Life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty."

John 6:35

What are you hungry for this coming year? What might really satisfy you? Every day voices call to us from hundreds of places like billboards, magazines and our devices, promising that what they're selling will satisfy our deepest hungers. Jesus understands this temptation.

In Matthew 4 we see Jesus led into the wilderness by the Spirit. There, after fasting, He experiences extreme hunger. A voice tells Him that He can satisfy His craving easily and quickly. Jesus recognizes this voice as the one who comes, not to give life, but to steal it. However, Jesus says no to the shortcut and waits for His Father's provision.

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For the week of Solemn Assembly, I block my calendar and say no to as many things as possible so I can intentionally start the year with God.

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Shortly after this, Jesus refers to Himself as the Bread of Life. In ancient Palestine, bread sustained life. It meant nourishment and survival. Jesus points out that everyone sustained by physical bread eventually dies and there is another kind of nourishment we all crave and need. Nourishment that leads to

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life, abundant life, and eternal life. A life sustained by Jesus Himself both for now and forever.

The enemy continues to offer quick, cheap counterfeits promising to satisfy our deepest cravings but as always, he lies. His offers always lead to greater hunger, bondage and emptiness. What Jesus offers isn't a short cut and it isn't always easy. He offers us Himself. His presence. His power. His guidance. His life. In another passage Jesus tells us that His meat—what sustains Him—is to do the will of His Father. As we find our life in Him, He always leads us in the will of the Father, whose will is always good, acceptable and perfect.

Jesus Himself promises to sustain us through our whole journey until the time “when Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”

Colossians 3:4

*Come, all you who are thirsty,
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without cost.
Why spend money on what is not
bread,
and your labor on what does not
satisfy?
Listen, listen to me, and eat what
is good,
and you will delight in the richest
of fare.*

Isaiah 55:1-2

*Most assuredly, I say to you, he who
believes in me has everlasting life.
I am the Bread of Life. Your fathers
ate the manna in the wilderness,
and are dead. This is the bread
which comes down from heaven,
that one may eat of it and not die.
I am the Living Bread which came
down from heaven. If anyone eats
of this bread, he will live forever;
and the bread that I shall give is my
flesh, which I shall give for the life
of the world.*

John 6:47-51

Rabboni

Jesus said, “Mary.” Turning to face Him, she said in Hebrew, “Rabboni!” meaning “Teacher!”

John 20:16

Picture yourself as an aspiring hockey player. Imagine the thrill and excitement if Wayne Gretzky said he saw potential in you and offered to spend time with you on the ice, sharing his expertise and experience.

You’d likely drop everything to take advantage of the offer. You’d watch carefully, listen intently and gladly work hard at implementing anything he suggested because you know you’re learning from the best!

Jesus, the Rabbi or teacher, makes a similar but infinitely better offer when He calls us to be His disciples! Rabbi is a name often used for Jesus in the New Testament and it was a common term at that time. Rabbi is a term of deep respect for and trust in someone with expertise knowledge of the

Scriptures. More than that, they are recognized for their wisdom in living out that truth. A literal interpretation of Rabbi is Great One. And in the garden, when Mary recognizes the resurrected Jesus, she calls Him *Rabboni* —*My Great One*. Those apprenticing with a Rabbi would often live and travel with him day and night, watching, learning and emulating, because they trusted that he had mastered, not just the Scriptures, but the art of living.

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Intentionally starting the year with our eyes on Jesus is so right!

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We will only follow the lead of our Rabbi if we trust Him. Do you deeply respect Jesus

brilliance and intellectual capacity? Do you remember that He created the world and all that is in it...from the nano to the macro, every system, every sphere of knowledge? The early Christians thought of Jesus as one, *“in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” Colossians 2:3.* They understood Him to be the “Great One” in every domain of life.

Jesus sees great potential in you and invites you to learn from Him. To call Him Rabboni. Being His apprentice is the greatest opportunity any human being ever has!

“The idea that you can trust Christ and not intend to obey Him is an illusion.... In fact, you can no more trust Jesus and not intend to obey Him than you could trust your doctor or your auto mechanic and not intend to follow their advice. If you do not intend to follow their advice, you simply do not trust them.”

Dallas Willard

If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and He will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. But when you ask Him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.

James 1:2-8

When He had finished washing their feet, He put on His clothes and returned to His place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” He asked them. “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

John 13:12-17

Morning Star

“I Jesus ...I am the root and offspring of David and the bright Morning Star”

Revelation 22:16

The last name of Jesus to be revealed to us in the Bible comes in the last chapter of Revelation. Jesus calls Himself the Morning Star. *“I Jesus... I am the root and offspring of David and the bright Morning Star.”* **Revelation 22:16**

This name fulfills a prophecy, given all the way back in the Old Testament by the prophet Balaam, who said, *“I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel.”* **Numbers 24:17**

In ancient times the morning star was considered a powerful symbol of hope and joy as it signals the dawning of a new day. We now know this morning star to be Venus. Even though night is not completely over, a new day is coming—soon the

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The Kids’ booklet helped me as a parent engage our family in meaningful prayer.

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long shadows of night will not be able to resist the power of the sun’s rays. On Easter morning a new day dawned as the darkness of sin and death was defeated. Our Morning Star, is chasing away the darkness through His presence, His people, and His promise that one day He will dispel all darkness permanently. There’s great hope knowing that there’s an end to all the troubles of our planet. On that day every shadow, sorrow, pain and confusion will be erased by the radiance of Jesus. There will

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be no need for the sun, for the glory of God illuminates the city, and the Lamb is its lights.

Revelation 21:23

As disciples of Jesus when we allow His presence, His light, and His truth to transform us the Bible says *you will shine among this generation like stars in the sky*. The world is looking for hope and joy and we have the privilege of bringing it into our world, in the name of Jesus—the one whose mercies are new every morning!

Simply by our proximity to Jesus, we can bring hope and life to people and places trapped in discouragement and despair.

Louie Giglio

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice,

though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. **1 Peter 1: 3-9**

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:14-16

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the World. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." **John 8:12**

Servant

Your attitude must be like my own, for I, the Messiah, did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give my life as a ransom for many.

Matthew 20:28

One of the names of Jesus that His disciples found confusing and even offensive was Servant. But Jesus was adamant about being called this. He said, the Son of Man has not come to be served but to serve, and to give His life to set many others free. Jesus set people free from physical, emotional and spiritual bondage. He selflessly served everyone—the rich, the poor, the beggars, the strong, the weak, those He knew as well as strangers. He served when He was tired, and hungry, and when it was crowded and inconvenient. He even served by healing one of the soldiers who came to arrest Him!

Jesus was others focused. He was always giving Himself away for the highest good of

others. Every time Jesus did something, we see what love in action looks like. You never see self-promotion, self-protection, self-pity, or anything remotely self-centered. How could He live in such self-less abandon? How could He be so endlessly giving?

There's a prophecy about Jesus written hundreds of years before He was born that gives us three keys: *Here is my Servant, whom I uphold, my Chosen One in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on Him and He will bring justice to the nations. Isaiah 42:1* Jesus could give Himself away because He was always receiving. He was upheld by His Father, cherished by His Father, and He was filled with the power of the Spirit.

As disciples we're called to serve with Jesus. We're designed to find life by giving ourselves away to set others free. We can never do this if our security, our image, and our comfort are the first priority of our lives. And we definitely can't do it with our limited resources and strength. But that's never what God intended. We are made to receive those from God. Only out of the overflow of His strength, His affection and His power can we give ourselves away. Freely we have received. Freely we can give.

"Here is my Servant, whom I uphold, my Chosen One in whom I delight;

I will put my Spirit on Him, and He will bring justice to the nations.

He will not shout or cry out, or raise His voice in the streets. A bruised reed He will not break, and a smoldering wick He will not snuff out. In faithfulness, He will bring forth justice; He will not falter or be discouraged till He establishes justice on earth. In His teaching the islands will put their hope."

Isaiah 42:1-4

But Jesus called them to Him and said, "You know that the rulers of the heathen lord it over them and that their great ones have absolute power? But it must not be so among you. No, whoever among you who wants to be great must become the servant of you all, and if he wants to be first among you he must be your slave—just as the Son of Man has not come to be served but to serve, and to give His life to set many others free."

Matthew 20:24-28 (Philips)

For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.

Galatians 5:13

The entire life of Jesus isn't the story of somebody climbing up a ladder; it's a picture of someone coming down—a series of demotions. The problem with spending our lives climbing up the ladder is that we will go right past Jesus, for He's coming down.

John Ortberg

Jesus came to serve all— A Servant

Personal

Jesus, thank you for being a Servant.
I praise you because ...

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Church Family

Jesus, you call your church to be a
serving community. This year please
help us ...

The World

Jesus, as I think of your humility
I pray for the world, asking ...



King of kings

On His robe and on His thigh, He had this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Revelation 19:16

It seems like any talk of kings and kingdoms these days brings interesting and often polarizing conversation. And yet, we all yearn for radical change in our societies and our world. As a human race we long to see truth and justice win and all the wrongs righted. We flip through the pages of history and see countless regimes and revolutions, but none have led to the lasting peace this planet craves.

Jesus talked a lot about kingdoms. He said that with Him came the Kingdom of God. But the kind of Kingdom He inaugurated is radically different than anything seen before. His has a completely different framework than the kingdoms of this world. The Kingdom where Jesus reigns is one of radical self-sacrificing

love. A Kingdom of freedom where only those who want to be in it are in. King Jesus is always inviting. Always pursuing. Always giving. Never coercing. Never oppressing. Never imposing His will. Always defending. Always protecting. Always working for good.

The very things we as human beings are desperately craving are the ways of His Kingdom. No fighting. No shoving. No oppression. No dissing. No homelessness. No stealing. No sexual harassment. No gutted savings and loans. No gang violence. Rather—Peace. Respect. Joy. Justice. Kindness. Generosity. No tears. No sorrow. No disease. No dying. Life. Light. Love. That's what life is like under God's loving rule. That's the way of our King. As His ambassadors we have

the high calling and privilege of showing the world how good life is in His Kingdom. We forcibly advance the Kingdom by overcoming evil with good and hatred with love, in the name of our beautiful King. The King of kings and the Lord of lords!

If you can really make a man believe you love him, you have won him; and if I could only make people really believe that God loves them, what a rush we would see for the Kingdom of God.

Dwight L. Moody

... giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of His holy people in the Kingdom of Light. For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the Kingdom of the one He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before

all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy.

Colossians 1:12-18

You're familiar with the old written law, 'Love your friend,' and its unwritten companion, 'Hate your enemy.' I'm challenging that. I'm telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the energies of prayer, for then you are working out of your true selves, your God-created selves. This is what God does. He gives His best—the sun to warm and the rain to nourish—to everyone, regardless: the good and bad, the nice and nasty. If all you do is love the lovable, do you expect a bonus? Anybody can do that. If you simply say hello to those who greet you, do you expect a medal? Any run-of-the-mill sinner does that. In a word, what I'm saying is, grow up. You're Kingdom subjects. Now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.

Matthew 5:40-48 (The Message)

Jesus is the ruler of all Kingdoms— King of kings

Personal

Jesus, thank you that you are the
King of kings. Show me where there
are places in my life where I'm
insisting on my kingdom ways
instead of yours.
I respond to you by ...

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Church Family

Jesus, you have all authority in heaven and on earth. You are the head of our church so I pray ...

The World

Jesus, as I consider your title of King of kings, I pray for our world ...



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