**Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus**

Celebration on Jan. 1, the eighth day after the birth of Jesus, when he was named and circumcised. He was "called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb" (Lk 2:21). Under the Law of Moses, all male infants were to be circumcised on the eighth day after birth (Lv 12:3). It was also customary at this time for family and friends to witness the naming of the child. This major feast is celebrated on Jan. 1, the eighth day of the Christmas season. Celebration of the Holy Name reflects the significance of the Holy Name of Jesus, and the emphasis of the Gospel of Luke on the naming of Jesus rather than his circumcision.

The name "Jesus" is from the Hebrew Joshua, or Yehoshuah, "Yahweh is salvation" or "Yahweh will save." Devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus is particularly derived from Phil 2:9-11, which states that God highly exalted Jesus "and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth."

**Readings**

**Numbers 6:22-27**
6:22 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

6:23 Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them,

6:24 The LORD bless you and keep you;

6:25 the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;

6:26 the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

6:27 So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

**Psalm 8**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | O LORD our Governor, \*    how exalted is your Name in all the world! |
|  |   |
| 2 | Out of the mouths of infants and children \*    your majesty is praised above the heavens. |
|  |   |
| 3 | You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries, \*    to quell the enemy and the avenger. |
|  |   |
| 4 | When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, \*    the moon and the stars you have set in their courses, |
|  |   |
| 5 | What is man that you should be mindful of him? \*    the son of man that you should seek him out? |
|  |   |
| 6 | You have made him but little lower than the angels; \*    you adorn him with glory and honor; |
|  |   |
| 7 | You give him mastery over the works of your hands; \*    you put all things under his feet: |
| 8 | All sheep and oxen, \*    even the wild beasts of the field, |
|  |   |
| 9 | The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, \*    and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea. |
|  |   |
| 10 | O LORD our Governor, \*    how exalted is your Name in all the world! |

**Philippians 2:5-11**
2:5 Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

2:6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,

2:7 but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form,

2:8 he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross.

2:9 Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,

2:10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

2:11 and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**Luke 2:15-21**
2:15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

2:16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

2:17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;

2:18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

2:19 But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

2:20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

2:21 After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

**NOTICES**

Next Sunday, January 5th will be Epiphany Sunday (Renewal and Rededication Sunday).

The 52 Challenge: Members commit to personally inviting one person – friend or stranger – to church every week this year and write the names on your personal calendar.

Annual Parish Meeting and Vestry Election will be on Sunday, January 19, 2020. There will be one Service only on that day at 9:00 am.

9th February will be “Renewal of Vows” Sunday.

Christmas Message from Canon Reid

What a wonderful time of the year it is!

The true message of Christmas is found in the Bible. Before Santa, Christmas Carols, presents and Christmas Trees, was the original story of the Nativity, the birth of Jesus. Christians will tell you that Jesus was born in a manager in complete poverty. This is what we celebrate at this time. A love story. God coming to earth in human form to die for us. We sometimes forget that there is a relationship beteween Christmas, Good Friday and Easter. That the only reason we celebrate Christmas is because the baby in a stable on Christmas morning was the man crucuified on a cross on Good Friday and our risen Lord. But it is a wonderful time of the year. This season of love.

I want to speak to some people who will not be celebrating this Christmas. There are an awful lot of people who are at their absolute breaking point this Christmas. While it may be the merriest time of the year for some, it may be the saddest, most stressful, loneliest and heart breaking time for others. For many this is a blue Christmas. Unless we have lived through December heatbroken, it may not cross our minds how hard this lead-up to Christmas can be for those who are mourning, those who are struggling with pain and loss.

I want to tell you of a God of love who comes to us in the midst of the mess and pain we know in our own everyday lives and the lives of those around us. I pray that you will feel the presence of the God of love this Christmas.

A Blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year is extended to all on behalf of the Vestry and my family.

Canon Reid

**With You, We Walk**

**A New Year’s Eve, Day and Week Prayer**

Another year has turned its page, O Lord.

We feel promises about to be fulfilled, hopes that may be realized,
and sorrows unknown – that may become ours to bear.

All of this, we carry into a New Year.

We declare at the doorway into this year,

that our trust is not in any man or woman to fulfill us,

Nor is our trust in circumstance,
or a belief that the days ahead will be easy.

We do not expect, in this New Year, for our every prayer
to be answered in a way we would like.
You are in control, and we release our lives to you.

We put our trust in this:
that You who have been with us through this past year, Immanuel,
will be with us in this New Year.

It is in You, Immanuel, we trust.
If you go ahead of us, we will go; if you go behind us, we will go.

If you will lead us in a cloud by day,

and if you will light the night and its shadows with Your fire,

we will faithfully follow.

This is our prayer:

In all things that happen this year we ask
that we would be aware of Your presence, O Lord.

In this walk that will always be by faith and not by sight,
let us perceive Your nearness.

We will stumble and fall, and we will also succeed and triumph.
We will laugh, and we will also weep.

But in those moments in which we cannot sense You near,
let us see with the eyes of faith

the marks of Your presence all around us,
beneath us, carrying us boldly into Your future.

With You we walk, with confidence and trust, into this New Year.

In Your Name we pray, living Lord Jesus,

Amen.

**Benediction**

We leave today
going into a future
as yet unmapped.

Take faith with you as you go;
into the parts of your life not yet traveled by love
into the parts of the world unexplored by grace

let compassion and hope be the roads that you follow
today and always
amen.