



Canon Davis Memorial Church

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HOLY NAME OF JESUS • January 1, 2021 (New Years Day)

Numbers 6:22-27 • Psalm 8 • Galatians 4:4-7

or Philipians 2:5-11 • Luke 2:15-21

Dear Friends,

January 1st is an important day in our Church calendars. As we know, it is also an important date in our secular calendars. As spiritual beings and as physical beings, we celebrate both — *Holy Name of Jesus Day* and *New Years day*.

Some of us don't feel like celebrating anything this year; others would rather do the opposite and unwisely have a party as a way to forget much of what troubled us in 2020. It has been a year filled with problems, challenges, self-sacrifice, success stories and stories of tragic failures. At times, some could sense a mean-spiritedness among many people. Much of what we faced in the past months was new to our generation of people. Huge decisions were required in the face of numerous opinions, options and conflicting demands. The goals of some of these were for positive solutions and effectiveness. Others seemed to seek mostly selfish gain.

Holy Name of Jesus Day is also known as "The Naming of Jesus". Some names can be really important. Sometimes they are intended to reflect the name of someone notable in the public eye. Or a name can be selected by the tradition of keeping favoured names within a family. In the naming of Jesus, we have the name's origin in one of the highest of heavenly sources, the angel Gabriel. Jesus' name became fully associated with our Lord being the Saviour of all humanity!

But he is this and much more. Jesus was central to the creation of the world and all that is in it, including you and me!

When I was a younger man, we used talk about a wide variety of things. One of these focussed on the things that we own or rent. Some pointed out that they rented a car, or their apartment, or their golf carts when they played a game of golf. It turns out that a wide range of goods are routinely rented as time moves along. The same may be true about the types of things we own. But when we reflect on it, we begin to see how we really own nothing. As we are transient beings, we ultimately must let go of everything we possess in life. So in a very real sense we are mainly people who are renters. But this ownership issue is deeper than being a bit of a mind game. It is not as though we rent things only to be ultimately returned to the soil, the earth. In a very real sense the spiritual role in the making of the Earth comes into the picture. For when something

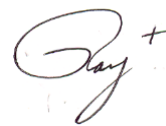
returns to the Earth it is returning to the owner of creation. The name of that owner/creator is Jesus. It is through our Lord Jesus Christ that we exist. It is through the one whose naming we celebrate now that we are provided with the resources to live our lives. It is through what we are given that we are able to live and share in community. Here, as in all aspects of Jesus' life, we find the source of life. When we combine what we are given in love with the opportunity to also share in our love of one another, we find ourselves engaged in building up one another in Christ. In doing this, we become life affirming people.

This brings me full circle to how we in society are treating our neighbour. Are we life affirming? Do we reach out in our love of others? Do we find joy in the gifts of one another, as gifts of the One whose name Jesus we now celebrate?

In 2021, may we respond to opportunities to build up one another in the name of Christ. It may mean just responding where a kind word of encouragement may be needed. Or perhaps providing a little help for someone having difficulty. It may come in opportunities to do what we can to be positive about our own work and that of others. Jesus knew the power of such loving actions.

Central to it all is the love to which we are called by the one whose name we celebrate everyday of every year.

May the year 2021 be a truly blessed one for you and those you love.



You are invited to go each Sunday and/or Wednesday to the link:

tinyurl.com/StAlbans-CDMC

That is the link to St. Alban's Anglican Church in Burnaby B.C. Follow the instructions. You will find links to the Rev'd Greg Jenkins officiating at an Anglican church service with children's focus, church music, readings, prayers and a sermon.

If you are also interested in joining their weekly Bible Study, contact Rev. Greg at revgregjenkins@gmail.com He will be more than happy to be in touch about joining in with their group by ZOOM. I hope you will find these services help to deepen your faith.

A new CDMC Pastoral Letter will not be read this week through our phone ministry. However, a new letter will be available for reading next week.