

Say My Name

September 22 – October 20, 2019

“What is your name?” – Genesis 32:27

Calling someone by name is powerful. It lets a person know they are seen, not as an object, but in their full humanity. God calls each of us by name and knows the very hairs on our heads, but we don't always give one another the same honor. We are called to speak names truly, to see and know one another. We name Jesus as our Savior and seek to embody that in our whole lives.

September 22 – Unseen and Unknown

“Is the LORD not in Zion?” – Jeremiah 8:19

Luke 16:1-13; Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

There are no named people in these passages and we see the strain of invisibility. If I am not this, what am I? Where will I be welcomed? Where is God? Sometimes we feel like no one knows our names, not even God.

September 29 – See and Know

“Alas for those who are at ease in Zion” – Amos 6:1a

Luke 16:19-31; Amos 6:1a, 4-7

In these stories, it is those forgotten by the world who are named and the rich and powerful who are not. God knows the names of even the least of these and we forget them and their humanity at our peril. We are invited to see and know the ignored and to recognize in them all those we have swept, unthinkingly, aside.

October 6 – Say Their Names

“a faith that lived first in...” – 2 Timothy 1:5

2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10

Our faith is not our own. It is planted by and grows alongside the faithful who surround us. It is a communal faith. Lifting the names of those who grew us affirms our own identity. Whether it's the names of our foremothers or that of Jesus, speaking these names has the power to re-center us in God.

October 13 – Claiming Community

“for in its welfare you will find your welfare” – Jeremiah 29:7

Luke 17:11-19; Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

What I thought was yours is actually ours. The stranger is my neighbor. Outsiders are invited in, invited to name a place ours. Insiders are invited to open up, to knock down walls and expand the “our.” Whatever has kept us apart, God calls us together. We are to step outside the naming of us and them and to think only of the we, the beloved community built, called, and named in every corner of the earth.

October 20 – Called and Named

“What is your name?” – Genesis 32:27

Luke 18:1-8; Genesis 32:22-31

We will not depart without a blessing. We will not move until you have named us and acted justly. An unnamed woman will not be silent until she receives justice. Jacob will not let go of the one he encounters without something to sustain him in his coming troubles. In these encounters all are changed, all are called and named as children of God.