

## Naming Eucharist

*It never ceases to amaze me just how many names is Jesus known by, many of them given before he was even born. For me it is important that we cannot adequately name God. There is something profound and essential that God is always more than we could possibly imagine. Maybe this is why I live Mary Daly's language of Verb of Being, that God is always dynamic and moving and cannot be confined by the limits of human imagination.*

*This Eucharist could also be called "Epiphany" or "Revelation" as it is through the different ways in which we name God we catch glimpses of the divine. This also draws heavily on a Canadian First Nation understanding of names as dynamic and changing to reflect an individual's character and their role within the community as they journey through life.*

God,  
I am who I am  
God,  
I will be who I will be  
undefined  
yet we yearn  
to designate  
to define  
to know

God or Goddess?  
For God is beyond  
beyond gender  
for God is beyond  
beyond language  
the great Verb  
I am  
Being  
Life  
Living  
Loving  
I am and I will be

God who is beyond naming  
God who has many names  
God who is unknowable  
God who cannot be known  
without the names we give

For names give character and meaning  
for names give identity and signify relationship  
names vary according to who is using them  
names change as we journey through life

And as God is embodied  
and takes on human flesh  
God is named  
and in the act of naming  
becomes

a baby  
Little One  
known as Bump  
by his parents  
given his first proper name  
at the moment of birth  
Jesus,  
Emmanuel  
God with us  
a name determined  
by an angel's visit  
seemingly inappropriate  
for a baby  
that is no more than a possibility  
and yet to quicken  
inside his mother's womb  
yet he will be  
the Son of the Most High  
with a list of ancestors  
running to fourteen generations  
from Sarah and Abraham  
to Mary and Joseph

And as Elizabeth  
meets Mary  
and the baby quickens  
and stretches and kicks  
Elizabeth adds a new name  
Blessed

Shepherds out in the fields  
are startled and frightened  
as an angel appears in the firelight  
and northern lights dance across the sky  
to you this day is born  
a Saviour

And as astrologers  
and philosophers  
travel from the East  
and seek directions  
from a royal palace  
they ask where is the child  
who is King of the Jews  
and Herod quakes in fear  
and demands to know  
where the Messiah is to be born

And on the eighth day  
a devout man called Simeon  
appeared at the temple  
where Jesus was to be presented

and added titles  
of a Light for the Gentles and  
Glory to your people Israel  
and Anna names him  
Redeemer.

Great names  
for a little child  
causing his parents to flee  
known in Egypt merely as  
"refugee" another faceless,  
nameless family seeking refuge

And now we come  
to the moment  
of Baptism  
and a voice comes from heaven  
and names him  
Beloved.

And this only the beginning of many names  
given to Jesus  
Emmanuel  
God with us  
all trying to express  
something of his identity  
his relationship  
his purpose  
his being  
Being  
I am

As at the last supper  
the Teacher and Healer  
and Prophet and Priest  
becomes the Servant  
gathering the people  
to the table  
becomes the Host  
of the Passover  
retelling Israel's story  
and weaving himself  
and the whole of humanity  
into a bigger, cosmic picture

"This is my body"  
present in the bread of daily life  
in the here and now  
present throughout creation  
in the everywhere and the yet to be  
and broken  
as the world and humanity are broken

And after the supper  
Jesus takes a cup of wine  
and shares it with his disciples  
"This is my blood poured out for you"  
the wine of the new covenant  
the new relationship  
sealed by my blood  
and invites us to be part of the story  
"do this in remembrance of me"

*[share bread and wine]*

We have shared the bread of brokenness  
and tasted the wine of new life  
for the Crucified One  
Is also the Risen One  
I am who I am  
I will be who I will be  
and I choose to become  
Emmanuel  
God with us

And in turn  
God names and calls  
each one of us  
unique and individual  
yet made  
in the vibrant image of God  
calls each of us  
to be who we will be  
to become all who we can become

For we too are named  
by God  
as my Beloved  
In whom I am well pleased.

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