

2020

NAMES OF GOD

ADVENT CALENDAR



ELMBROOK
CHURCH



INTRODUCTION

Names, nicknames, and titles tell us about people – they give us insight into who they are and what they are like. God is no different. The Bible uses dozens of names and titles for Him.

Each one describes an attribute of God and reveals more of His character to us.

They help us understand more about Him, about His holiness, love, forgiveness, healing, guidance, might, and creativity.

During Advent, we celebrate the arrival of Jesus. It is a season of preparation, not just for the Christmas holiday, but for the promise God made to each of us by sending His Son to earth.

Through Jesus, God promises that He will always love us and never leave us and that having an intimate relationship with us is of the utmost importance to Him.

What better way could we celebrate Jesus's arrival as a baby in a manger than by getting to know the God who sent him. May God bless your efforts to know Him better.



1

ELOHIM

MIGHTY CREATOR

In the beginning God created
the heavens and the earth.

GENESIS 1:1

In the Bible, over one hundred unique names translate to God in English, but the first time God introduces Himself to us, it is using the Hebrew name Elohim - Mighty Creator. Throughout the Scriptures, that word for God appears 2,570 times.

In the first sentence of the Bible, God reveals that He is mighty enough to create something out of nothing, to create from within Himself. Nothing is too hard for Him. When we face trials of any kind, when we're overwhelmed and exhausted, we can cry out to Elohim. He did not design us to live this life using our strength. He designed us to need our Mighty Creator.

1

PRAY:

Elohim, you created everything, including me.
You are mighty and strong. When I face obstacles
in life, please help me remember
I do not need to face them alone.
Amen.

ACTIVITY IDEA:

Google “advent definition” and discuss
how this word related to the story of Jesus birth.



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LOGOS

THE WORD

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

JOHN 1:1

In the book of John, we are introduced to Jesus in a unique way. He is referred to as the Word, or “logos” in Greek. By referring to Jesus as the Word, John introduces us to God’s most extraordinary communication with man.

Before the world was created, before Mary and Joseph, Jesus was present with God. He would be the one to reveal and explain God to a watching world. Jesus is the living Word, and through his words, we come to know who God is.

2

PRAY:

Father, thank you for your written word, the Bible,
and the living Word, Jesus. As I seek you,
reveal more of yourself to me each day.

Amen.

ACTIVITY IDEA:

Read the story of Jesus birth in Luke 2.
Now illustrate it with pictures. Let everyone
in your family take a part of the story and
then put them all together.



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3

I AM

YAHWEH

God said to Moses,
'I AM WHO I AM.'

This is what you are to
say to the Israelites:

'I AM has sent me to you.'

EXODUS 3:14

The name Yahweh means the self-existent one, the unchanging one. As humans, we need food, water, air, protection, and love. As much as we want to feel self-sufficient, we have basic needs that must be met to survive. But God doesn't need anything or anyone. He is entirely self-existent, never changing.

And when we ask questions of God:

Are you able to see me?

Are you going to help me?

Are you willing to forgive me?

To every question we ask,

He answers, "I am."

3

PRAY:

Yahweh, you need nothing, and yet you choose me.

I can rely on you because you never change,
and you never will. Help me to trust in
your constant faithfulness.

Amen.

ACTIVITY IDEA:

Record a Christmas greeting video
to send to family and friends.



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4

JEHOVAH-JIREH

THE LORD WILL PROVIDE

Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son.

So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide.

And to this day it is said, 'On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.'

GENESIS 22:13-14

In this passage of Scripture, God asked Abraham to sacrifice his only son, a son whom he had prayed for and patiently awaited. Abraham would do anything for God, but imagine the overwhelming heartache Abraham must have felt at this request. But just as Abraham raised his hand to follow God's command, God provides exactly what Abraham needs.

"Jireh" is the Hebrew word meaning "to see."

God sees what we need, and He will provide for us.

4

PRAY:

Jehovah-Jireh, you see me and know exactly
what I need, and when I need it.
Help me to trust that you will provide for
my deepest needs. Thank you for being
my provider.

Amen.

ACTIVITY IDEA:

Make a new ornament for the tree,
or a decoration for somewhere else
in your house.



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EL ROI

5 THE GOD WHO SEES

I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?

My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth...

The Lord will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch
over your coming & going both
now & forevermore.

PSALM 121:1-2, 7-8

Sometimes, it's easy to picture God looking down from heaven waiting for us to do something wrong. But El Roi, the God who sees, intently watches over us with tenderness and compassion. He notices; He misses nothing. Even when you feel overlooked or forgotten, God sees you and understands your unique situation. When life is unraveling, El Roi sees the difficulties that we face. And because He sees you, He knows your needs and gladly provides comfort.

5

PRAY:

El Roi, you see me even when I feel forgotten. Thank you for watching over me, for knowing my current situation, and comforting me.

Amen.

ACTIVITY IDEA:

Add some jingle bells to your front door and every time you hear them jingle thank God for the person who just walked in your home.



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6

EL GIBBOR

MIGHTY GOD

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place & gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth & under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11

Nothing can compare to God in terms of strength.

Many of us spend years, even decades, hoping that someone will finally save us from the pain of this world. Sometimes we hope a significant other, friend, or family member will save us. But no matter how loving, others will never be able to solve our problems. But God is omnipotent – all-powerful – and He makes things happen. In every situation, we can trust God's power. He overcame sin and death, and He can overcome any problem we face.

6

PRAY:

Mighty God, you are capable of overcoming every obstacle. In times where I feel weak, come alongside me with your strength.

Amen.

ACTIVITY IDEA:

Make a gingerbread house with a kit or if you're daring, from scratch!



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JEHOVAH-RA'AH

SHEPHERD

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes
my soul. He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake."

PSALM 23:1-3

Sheep are not very smart animals. To care for a flock of sheep, a shepherd must be up close and personal, intimately aware of the flock's needs, and continually watching so the sheep don't wander straight into danger. A shepherd guides the flock to safety, protects, and cares for them. If we are like sheep, an unflattering yet often very accurate comparison, God promises to be our Shepherd. He promises to care for us, to know our needs, to keep us safe. All we have to do is trust Him and humbly follow.



7

PRAY:

God, you are the Good Shepherd.
Help me trust you fully and completely so that you
may guide me down the best path.
Amen.

ACTIVITY IDEA:

Choose a different country, find out how
they celebrate Christmas, and maybe try some
traditions from that country this year.



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8



ORI

MY LIGHT

The Lord is my light and my salvation—
whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold
of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?



PSALM 27:1

In Isaiah 42, God is described as the light of the nations. But in Psalms, David calls God “my light.”

It’s descriptive of an intimate, one-on-one relationship between David and God. Just as with David, God is your light. Because of this truth, you don’t have to wait in darkness until a pastor, mentor, parent, or friend supplies you with light. God will illuminate your life. He promises to guide you uniquely and enliven your heart.

8

PRAY:

God, you loved the world so much that you sent your Son to save me personally. Thank you for lighting up my life and guiding me as I navigate this dark world.
Amen.

ACTIVITY IDEA:

Load the car up and drive around town looking at Christmas lights.



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9

BASILEUS BASILEON

KING OF KINGS

On his robe and on his thigh he has this
name written: KING OF KINGS
& LORD OF LORDS.



REVELATION 19:6

We live in a world full of kings, presidents, and leaders of many kinds. And often, it's all too easy to see the flaws and missteps of those leaders. But God promises to be the King of kings. He governs overall as the supreme leader. And God doesn't just promise to be the most high; He also promises that we can look to Him as a better leader to us than anyone else. He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords, and He's got the whole world in His hands.

9

PRAY:

King of Kings, you govern overall,
yet you intimately care for and lead me personally.
I praise you as the one who rules over all things.
Amen.

ACTIVITY IDEA:

Ask an older relative how they
celebrated Christmas when they
were younger (grandparent, aunt, uncle, etc).



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10

EL QADOSH

THE HOLY ONE

For this is what the high and exalted One says—he who lives forever, whose name is holy: ‘I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.’



ISAIAH 57:15

The Hebrew word for “holy” means sinless and free from imperfection. God is entirely absent from error or fault, and it is His perfection that sets Him apart. And yet it is that same holiness that drives Him to seek and save the lost and to restore our broken world to a holy state. Because He is so holy, God hates sin enough to deliver us from it. Even though He is set apart, He still desires to be with us and revive the guilty and lowly.

10

PRAY:

God, you are holy and perfect beyond what I can understand. And even though I am sinful, you want to seek me out and restore me. Thank you for breathing new life into me. Amen.

ACTIVITY IDEA:

Sing some of your favorite Christmas carols.



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11

ELOHIM SHAMA

THE GOD WHO HEARS

I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer.



PSALM 17:6

God is mighty and holy, but sometimes it's easy to forget that He is also a great listener. Like a faithful friend, God promises that we can talk to Him, and He will be absolutely attentive to us.

He won't be distracted but actively listening. As hard as it may be to imagine, God can hear each of us individually. Even when we don't know what to say, God hears the wordless groans of our hearts and understands (Romans 8:26).

God always hears the cries of our hearts.

11

PRAY:

God, thank you for always listening.
Whether I'm struggling, scared, or just need
someone to talk to, you are there for me,
and you care about what I have to say.
Amen.

ACTIVITY IDEA:

Have a picnic by the Christmas tree.



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12

ABBA

FATHER

Because you are his sons,
God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts,
the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father.'
So you are no longer a slave, but God's child;
and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

— GALATIANS 4:6-7

Even the best earthly dads have moments where they are stressed, frustrated, or impatient, so sometimes it can be hard to imagine the perfect father. But God is the perfect Father.

He knows everything about us – our talents, flaws, deepest desires, and what we were created for.

He is tender and strong. We can run to Him and hide in His arms and know with confidence that everything will be all right.

12

PRAY:

Abba, you know everything about me, and you love me so deeply. I am valuable and important to you. Help me to embrace you as the perfect Father.

Amen.

ACTIVITY IDEA:

Go on a winter hike or walk, maybe somewhere you usually go in the summer and notice the differences.



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EL OLAM

13 EVERLASTING GOD

Do you not know? Have you not heard?

The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom

ISAIAH 40:28

“El Olam” is the Hebrew name for God, meaning eternal, everlasting, or forever. Our God will surely stand the test of time. And, an everlasting God also makes everlasting promises to us. Hebrews 9:15 says, “...that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.” Because God is eternal, the promise of salvation is guaranteed to last and will never change.

13

PRAY:

Everlasting God, you promise to save me today, tomorrow, and every day into the future. I praise your eternal name and anxiously await eternity in heaven with you.

Amen.

ACTIVITY IDEA:

Bake some Christmas cookie and treats.
Enjoy the family time in the kitchen!



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14

EL SELA

GOD MY ROCK

Since you are my rock and my fortress,
for the sake of your name lead and guide me

PSALM 31:3

We hope many things in life will prove secure – our homes, stable jobs, finances, solid marriages, lifelong friendships – but even these things can crumble in a moment. One thing will always remain solid, though, and that is God, our Rock. When we trust His character, His truth, His promises, we rely on a rock-solid foundation, and even during challenging or uncertain times in our lives, we can run to Him, and we will be safe and secure. (Proverbs 18:10)

14

PRAY:

God My Rock, because you are strong and stable and secure, I know I can face tomorrow – even when my circumstances are shifting and scary. Help me rely on you to be steady and keep me safe.

Amen.

ACTIVITY IDEA:

Add a small Christmas tree to a room (like the kitchen or a bedroom) where you normally don't have a Christmas tree. Your family will love it.



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15

JEHOVAH EZRA

MY HELPER

“So we say with confidence,
‘The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.
What can mere mortals do to me?’

— HEBREWS 13:6

There are many times in life when we rely on someone to help us. We rely on doctors, mentors, counselors, teachers, parents for help. These people come alongside us and serve, and sometimes even save. God promises to come alongside His children in this way. When we're sick, overwhelmed, discouraged, or confused, God comes alongside us. He promises that He will never be absent from our side (Joshua 1:9), and will always help and encourage us, whatever we may face in life.

15

PRAY:

Helper, sometimes life just feels overwhelming.
Help me remember that you are always there to
help me; I only need to call on your name!

Amen.

ACTIVITY IDEA:

Have a family game night.



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16

ELOHAY SELICHOT

FORGIVER

They refused to listen and failed to remember
the miracles you performed among them.
They became stiff-necked and in their rebellion
appointed a leader in order to return to their slavery.
But you are a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and abounding in love.
Therefore you did not desert them.



PSALM 27:1

The Old Testament tells the story of God's people, the Jews, and their frequent rebellion. They regularly turned away from God, thought they could live better without following Him and were hard-hearted, yet God relentlessly and graciously pursued them – even to the point of sending His Son, Jesus, to die on their behalf. The story of the Bible is often a mirror of our stories, showing us how we sometimes act. We frequently turn away from God to things of this world, and yet He continually pursues us, is compassionate towards us, shows us grace, and always forgives us.

16

PRAY:

Forgiver, you will never stop showing me grace.
Even when I feel guilty and ashamed because of
my sin, you will always pursue me and forgive me.

Thank you for your abounding love.

Amen.

ACTIVITY IDEA:

Take some homemade
treats to a neighbor.



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17

ELOHIM AHAVAH

THE GOD WHO LOVES

I have loved you with an everlasting love;
I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.

JEREMIAH 31:3

1 John 4:8 says, "God is love." The essence of God's being is love. We each have key personality traits that make us who we are – the core of God is love. It permeates and influences every other characteristic of Him. He is a loving judge, father, and shepherd; His love is always present, eternal, firm, and reliable.

No matter what, God is crazy about us.

He is love. Because He loved us first, we can have life and love (1 John 4:19).



17

PRAY:

God, your love is abundant and overwhelming.
There is no place where I can escape it, and nothing
I can do will make you stop loving me.
Help me remember this truth.
Amen.

ACTIVITY IDEA:

Do a selfless act for someone today -
pay someone's bill thru the drive thru,
watch a friend's child, or take someone a meal.



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18

JEHOVAH-RAPHA

HEALER

Praise the Lord, my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not
all his benefits—who forgives all your sins and
heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from
the pit and crowns you with love and compassion,
who satisfies your desires with good things so that
your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

PSALM 103:1-5

There are times in life when we, or those we love,
are pained by physical brokenness.

But probably more common is the pain we feel at
broken relationships, lost loved ones, unfulfilled
dreams, and more. And sometimes, spiritual and
emotional brokenness can be even more painful
than physical difficulties. And here's God's promise:

He is our great Healer of physical, emotional,
and spiritual brokenness alike.

He heals broken bones and
broken relationships, illness and
heartbreak, sin and suffering.

18

PRAY:

Healer, thank you for caring for me physically,
emotionally, and spiritually.
You know where I most desire to heal in my life.
Grant me your healing power.
Amen.

ACTIVITY IDEA:

Have a pajama party while watching
a Christmas movie.



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19

FIRST & LAST

ALPHA & OMEGA

'I am the Alpha and the Omega,' says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.'

— REVELATION 1:8

Alpha and omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. God is saying that He knows the beginning of the story, and the end, and everything in between. And not only does He know the story, He authored it. God knows exactly how things will pan out and how your story is delicately interwoven in His greater narrative. He knows the exact outcome of your life and how it works together with His good intentions for the world.

19

PRAY:

Alpha & Omega, you were here before all things, and you will be for eternity. Help me see my story in light of your eternal narrative and know that no matter what happens in life, I can cling to the promise that you authored the perfect story.

Amen.

ACTIVITY IDEA:

Plan a day to wear only red, green, and white.



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SAR-SHALOM

PRINCE OF PEACE

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine on you and be
gracious to you; the Lord turn his face
toward you and give you peace.

NUMBERS 6:24-26

Peace is the word we often use when things are still, calm, without conflict or stress. Shalom is the Hebrew word meaning “peace,” but more than just the absence of bad things, it conveys the presence of fullness and joy. It conveys the idea of life as it was meant to be. When Jesus died on the cross, he afforded us the utmost peace we can experience through life with God in eternity. It is the most complete and ultimate peace we will ever experience, and it came as a gift from God.

20

PRAY:

Prince of Peace, you have given me the ultimate gift by paying the ultimate price on the cross. I want to experience true shalom and share it with others. Show me how to be a peace-maker in my life.

Amen.

ACTIVITY IDEA:

Celebrate Jesus' birthday!
Have a birthday party with cake and candles, make a big breakfast, and give a gift to someone who is not expecting it.



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21

ELOHIM QAROB

GOD IS NEAR

What other nation is so great as
to have their gods near them the way
the Lord our God is near us
whenever we pray to him?



DEUTERONOMY 4:7

Do you ever find yourself hoping for encouragement at work, home, or school, and then are disappointed when you don't receive the affirmation you needed? Even the best and most encouraging friends will let us down sometimes. But God never will. When we need encouragement, He isn't far away in heaven. He is sitting next to us in our workplace, bedroom, classroom, or doctor's office, and when we pray, He is near and listens and gives us the confidence we need to face life's challenges.

21

PRAY:

God, as I pray, help me to envision you sitting next to me. You are near, and you never leave my side.

Give me confidence when I am discouraged.

Amen.

ACTIVITY IDEA:

Write a “thank you” note for your mail carrier or delivery people.



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YOTZERENU

22

POTTER

Yet you, Lord, are our Father.
We are the clay, you are the potter;
we are all the work of your hand

ISAIAH 64:8

A fresh piece of clay in the hands of a potter is a ball of unrealized potential. The clay is molded, shaped, and formed into the vision of the artist. Onlookers – and even the clay itself – don't know the potter's plan, and sometimes it is hard to imagine that the product will ever become useful, much less beautiful. But in the hands of the Potter, God starts the good work of shaping us and carries it on to completion. (Philippians 1:6) And we can rest in His hands because He's not done with us yet, and the product will surely be magnificent.

22

PRAY:

Potter, I know you are working to make me into a magnificent vessel. Help me to rest in you, even when the process of becoming useful and beautiful is painful, confusing, or dizzying.
Amen.

ACTIVITY IDEA:

Make some paper snowflakes.
Did you know God made each snowflake unique just like He created us!



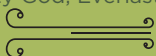
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PARAKLETOS

23

WONDERFUL COUNSELOR

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.



ISAIAH 9:6

After Jesus died on the cross for our sins and returned to heaven, he recognized our need for a counselor, advisor, and support system on earth to help us navigate life in his absence. Just as Jesus came to earth to live among people and teach them, he sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in the followers of Christ and remind us of what Jesus taught on earth.

The Holy Spirit is our Counselor and helps us understand God and the Bible. If we believe in God and desire a relationship with Him, the Holy Spirit will come alongside us as we try to practice what Jesus taught.

23

PRAY:

God, thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to stand by me and help me walk through life as my Wonderful Counselor and advocate. Thank you that because of Jesus, nothing can separate me from your love.

Amen.

ACTIVITY IDEA:

Look at your nativity set and tell the story of how Jesus was born.



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EL-MOSHAAH

24

THE GOD WHO SAVES

Our God is a God who saves; from the
Sovereign Lord comes escape from death.



PSALM 68:20

Almost since the beginning of time, death has been humanity's "last enemy" (1 Corinthians 12:26). God told Adam & Eve that eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil would certainly result in death. Since then, human life has been marked by physical and spiritual death. But God is the one who saves. He sent Jesus to die on the cross and pay the full price of our sin on our behalf. And salvation is God's gift to us. We don't need to work for it or try to earn it. We simply need to believe in Him.

24

PRAY:

God, thank you for saving me from sin and death.

Jesus died so that I might live in eternity
with you, and I believe that to be true.

I want to live with you in heaven.

Amen.

ACTIVITY IDEA:

If you prayed this prayer and believe it
to be true for the first time, tell someone!

Maybe the person who gave you this
calendar or a family member or friend.

Celebrate with them that
God has saved you personally!



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GOD WITH US

25

IMMANUEL

'The virgin will conceive and give
birth to a son, and they will
call him Immanuel'
(which means 'God with us').

— MATTHEW 1:23

This verse holds a powerful promise of God's character that is applicable yearlong. We now know God is holy and set-apart, unchanging, everlasting, mighty, our advocate, and so much more. And we know that we are sinners and undeserving of His love. And yet, each Christmas, we celebrate the overwhelming truth that God came to be with us, to "make his dwelling among us" (John 1:14). Because He has lived on earth, he understands what it's like to be human. Because of His work on the cross, He gave us access to the God we've been learning about. Immanuel means that Jesus came in close and did everything necessary to bring us back to Himself. The promise of Immanuel is that God came to be with us, to die for us so that He might live in us and never walk away from us.



25

PRAY:

God, thank you for loving me so much that you were unable to endure separation between us. Thank you for coming close and dwelling among us so that you might die for me and live in me through the Holy Spirit.

Today, I praise the name, Immanuel!

Amen.



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