



2nd Sunday
After Christmas

Festival of the Holy Name



**The Name by Which
We Are Named**

John 1:6-13

Introduction: The 2 Triad Cycles of the Story of Jesus in the Church Calendar

- **Advent** - a season *preparation* and *longing*
 - **Christmas** - a season of *celebration* and *wonder*
 - **Epiphany** - a season of *knowing* and *making known*

[Intermission: Ordinary Time]

- **Lent** - a season of *lamenting* and *wilderness*
 - **Easter** - a season of *resurrection* and *new hope*
 - **Pentecost** - a season of *empowerment* and *declaration*

[Ordinary Time]

The Light Witness - vv.6-9

*There was a man **sent** from God,
whose name was John.*

*He came as a **witness**,
to bear witness about the light,
that all might believe through him.*

*He was **not** the light,
but came to bear witness about the light.*

*The **true light**, which gives light to everyone,
was coming into the world.*

The Light Unknown and Unreceived - vv.10-11

*He was **in** the world,
and the world was made **through** him,
yet the world **did not know** him.*

*He came to his own,
and his own people **did not receive** him.*

The Light Received and Believed - vv.12-13

*But to **all** who did **receive** him,
who **believed** in his name,*

*he gave the **right** to become **children of God**,*

*who were **born**,*

not of blood

nor of the will of the flesh

nor of the will of man,

but of God.

Reflection

- In Christ we have been adopted and given a new nature - 2 Peter 1:3-4
- As such, we **bear the Name** that is above all
 - He is the True Light, and as God's children we have become lights the world around us until the Light dawns
 - This requires responsibility to bear that Name well
- While most of us have names that will be eventually forgotten, we now bear the eternal Name

Responsive Prayer/Confession

Jesus, though You were God

**You did not think of equality with God
as something to cling to.**

*Instead, you gave up your Divine privileges
and took the humble position of a servant
and was born as a human being.*

*Therefore, God elevated You to the place of highest honor
so that at Your Name every knee should bow
and every tongue confess that You are Lord
to the glory of God the Father.*