

Sermon Notes for the Conclusion of the Names of the Divine Sermon Series, 9/6/26

During the summer of 2026 we have explored some of the names and images found in the Bible that are used to describe the Divine. These names and images help us know something of the One who is transcendent, beyond our understanding, and at the same time One who is immanent, who is as close to us as the air we breathe.

We have reflected on:

Genesis 1:1-12	Creator and Provider , who calls creation “good”, fashions a world of connection and abundance, and gives humans the purpose of being caretakers.
Psalms 18:1-6	My Rock , who brings steadiness and support in the face of adversity.
Isaiah 9:2-7	Prince of Peace , who intends harmony, wholeness, and wellbeing for all creation and invites our partnership in this work.
Psalms 23	Good Shepherd whose faithful care and guidance sees us through all the ups and down.
Matthew 1:23, 8:23-27	Emmanuel , God-With-Us, who has come to earth to experience the fullness of the human condition, so that we might know the fullness of God’s life.
John 4:7-15	Living Water , a refreshing and restorative Divine presence that is available to all, irrespective of the human-made barriers that divide us.
John 6:1-12, 35	Bread of Life , an image inviting trust in our Provider who takes what we have to offer and ensures there is more than enough.
Luke 8:43-48	Healer , an image that imagines healing as something more than a cure for us mortal creatures. Christ our Healer empowers acceptance of our frailty and mortality as a means of creating communities of grace and peace that trust the promise of resurrected, restored, and new life will be fulfilled.
John 9:1-11	Light of the World . In the shadows we can feel lost and alone. Christ is a light that opens eyes, hearts, minds, and spirits to what matters most—the love of God, self, and neighbor.
John 15:1-11	Vine and Vine Grower are images of the Divine that support the growth and vitality of disciples. This produces a fruitfulness of saving grace for all.
John 14:6, 8:3-11	Advocate is an image that emphasizes the way Christ stands with us, encourages us, and helps us. Jesus’ fruitfulness grows after death. His Living Spirit, our Advocate, is not limited by place and time, and is always working to counter condemnation and foster transformation.
Exodus 3:13-15	I Am , defies precise definition, so we do not impose any limit on the Divine. God is bigger than our language, liturgies, rituals, and theologies. It is enough to be humbly in awe of the Holy One.

Questions for Reflection

- What other images, names, or titles of the Divine do you find meaningful?
- What image provides a helpful focus for prayer?
- What image inspires service to God?
- What image calms your heart and quiets your mind?
- What image restores your hope?
- What image will you share with someone you know who is hurting?