

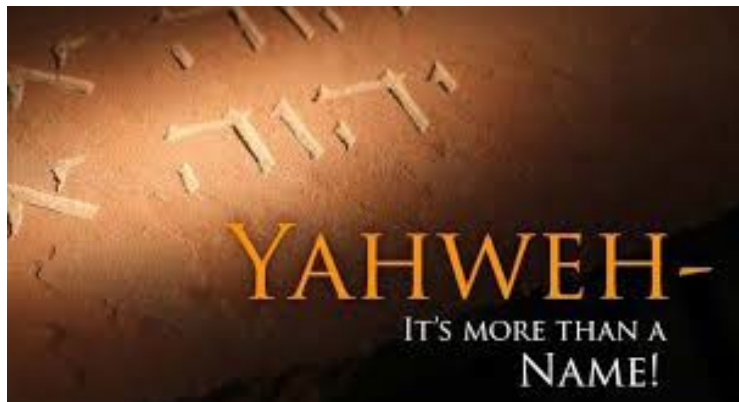


Order of Service

20th of March 2022

10.00 am

Worship led by Rev Dr André Groenewald
Music from Christine Fergusson and the choir





Welcome & Announcements

Good morning, please allow me a few announcements..

You will see that there will be responses at the call to worship again...

The events of this week: Monday 21 March 22
– Steering group meeting at 7:30 St Joseph's Hall

Tuesday 22 March 22 Pastoral Visitors on

Tuesday evening at 7.45pm in the Ogston.–

Wednesday 23 March 22 – Session meeting

7:30 St Joseph's Hall



Saturday
there will be a
community
fundraiser for
Ukraine

On Sunday we will have our AGM after the service...

Let us worship God ...

Worshipping God Together (Psalm 37:3-4):

Minister: Inescapable God, majestic and bright,

All: shine upon us.

Minister: Immeasurable God, majestic and bright,

All: shine upon us.

Minister: Everlasting God, majestic and bright,

All: shine upon us.

Minister: Let your light be found,

**All: reach into us - illuminating our souls - as we
worship together.**

Beloved, I greet you in the Name of God the Father the Son and the Holy
Spirit. Amen

CH4 448 Lord, the light of your love is shining

Opening prayer and Lord's prayer

Let us pray:

Loving Father – thank you for calling us to your
house this morning –

Through your Holy Spirit Lord,

Make it quiet in our hearts now, that we can
hear your words

And fill us with faith and love and courage –

To go out into the world and live to the glory of your name.

Father, this time two years ago,
the world began to change as the pandemic took hold.

It set us on a path we could not have imagined,
a rollercoaster of fear and despair.

We thank you for being with us every step of the way.

Thank you for the times when we witnessed the best of humanity;

for those who selflessly worked to save lives,
produce vaccines and keep the country running;

for those who raised funds and spirits.

For every time you sent someone
or something to lift us up, O Lord,

we give thanks and praise;
for every day you helped us to carry on
when the tunnel was long
and the light at the end of it dim,
we praise your holy name.

The world has changed, and we have
been changed;
let us take what we have seen and learned
to light our way ever more.

Forgive us lord, for all the mistakes we made
this week, for all the doubt that filled our hearts
and all the opportunities we missed.

Thank you for the reassurance that you love us
anyway.

All these things we pray in the words your Son Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, the glory for ever.

Amen.

Reflecting on God's Word

Bible Reading: Exodus 3:1-15 read by Margaret Forsyth

Moses and the burning bush

3 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. **2** There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. **3** So Moses thought, 'I will go over and see this strange sight – why the bush does not burn up.' **4** When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, 'Moses! Moses!' And Moses said, 'Here I am.' **5** 'Do not come any closer,' God said. 'Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.' **6** Then he said, 'I am the God of your father,^[a] the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God. **7** The LORD said, 'I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering.' **8** So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey – the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. **9** And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. **10** So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.' **11** But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?' **12** And God said, 'I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you^[b] will worship God on this mountain.' **13** Moses said to God, 'Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you," and they ask me, "What is his name?" Then what shall I tell them?' **14** God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.'^[c] This is what you are to say to the Israelites: "I AM has sent me to you."¹⁵ God also said to Moses, 'Say to the Israelites, "The LORD,^[d] the God of your fathers – the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob – has sent me to you."

‘This is my name for ever,
the name you shall call me
from generation to generation.

Sermon

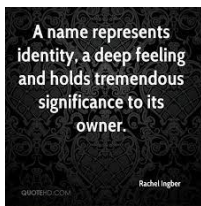
¹⁵ God also said to Moses, ‘Say to the Israelites, “The LORD,^[d] the God of your fathers – the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob – has sent me to you.”

‘This is my name for ever,
the name you shall call me
from generation to generation.

Why was it so important for Moses to ask
God for His name?



In Biblical times **names** were very important.



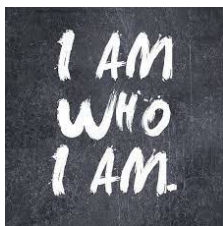
Slide

Your name stated who you were – your identity and character, your purpose in life and to which family you belonged. Every name meant something which we can see all through the history of the Bible.



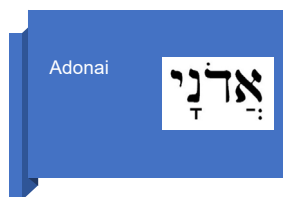
saved from the water” which described his origins.

Names were a key element of Biblical world which explains why it was so important for Moses and the people of God to know **who** God is, what His purposes will be, His identity and authority.



also be translated as “I will be what I will be” or even “I will let happen what I will let happen”.

יהוה



This gets even more complicate when we look back at the original Hebrew language.

אלהים

Consonants:		Vowels:	
א	[Silent]	ֵ	e
ל	L	ֹ	o
ה	H	ִ	i
י	Y		
מ	M		

Originally the Hebrew language only consisted of consonants. They had no vowels. Because it was much more a spoken than a written language at the time, the people knew exactly what the words meant.

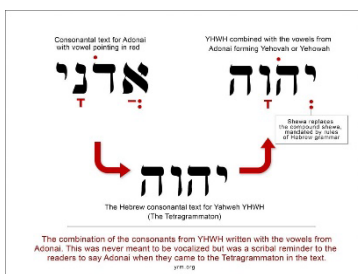
But in the 6th – the 10th century before Christ, the **Masoretes** or groups of Jewish scribe-scholars added vowels to the words, to preserve the meaning for future generations. The Masoretes were primarily based in the

cities of Tiberias and Jerusalem, as well as in Iraq (Babylonia).

And you can understand why, because the letters BD, for instance, could mean: bad, bed, bid - and there is quite a big difference in meaning between these words!

So what they did then is astonishing - they

took the vowels of ADONAI and added them to YHWH... **Slide**



So until this day, no Jew will read JAHWEH but ADONAI...MY Lord!

So although God is revealing to Moses who he is here, his name still stays a mystery – and that is because he is God, he is bigger than us, and we are not supposed to understand him fully.

In our text we see “glimpses” of who God is ...slide



He is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – the God of the past, who is also the God who IS now (I am), *and* the God of the future (I will be).

slide



He meets with Moses – He is taking the initiative and is in control.

slide He is HOLY and Moses had to respect



God by taking off his shoes and not looking at HIM!



slide God has seen the tribulations of His people and was deeply concerned about

their suffering in Egypt.



God is the RESCUER who will deliver His people from slavery **slide**



God is the PROVIDER of all good things **slide**

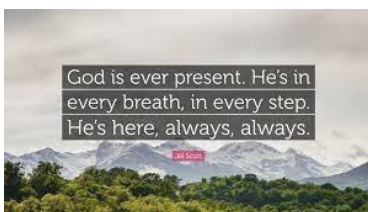
God hears, listens and responds to the cries



and prayers of His people **slide**

slide

God is always present and a helper close at



hand in times of trouble. He said

to Moses that he will be with him

when he speaks to the Pharaoh.

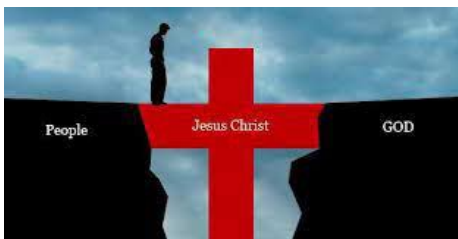
GOD
Never
CHANGES.
(HEBREWS 13:8)

God never changes...He is forever today and tomorrow the same... slide

He is the Almighty God who has not broken any promises with His people....

Trusting God
with the Future

God is also the God of the FUTURE which we are all witnesses of.



Slide

God heard and saw that His people will never redeem themselves, so He stepped in once again through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Jesus modelled who God is in a real and personal way all through HIS ministry. No wonder He was **called** Immanuel – God with us! Another name that meant so much...

Jesus included everyone in his ministry on earth...

He healed the sick, and fed thousands of hungry people...

He blessed children ...

He helped the vulnerable and the marginalised,

He spoke the TRUTHS of God in a way that challenged and changed hearts and minds...

He never gave up HIS true calling as a messenger of God...

Even when He surfed agony and pain and cried out at the last, He was still doing the WILL of God.

All the glimpses of God that we see in our passage this morning has been confirmed by Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son.

And in a way, we are like Moses.... Asking God to **help us** in our circumstances of secularization, global austerity, rising energy bills, food prices, and the pandemic that seems to drag on a wee bit...

What do we say to our people about God?

In the light of the suffering in Ukraine, we are the witnesses of the fact that He knows suffering. He was always deeply concerned about the life and well being of His people like we see in our reading. Time and time again, despite the disobedience and stubbornness of His people, He always forgave them and saved them.

He did this in Jesus as well when He sent HIS only Son to rescue, redeem and save HIS people from the suffering and tyranny of sin. He experienced the painful agony of being whipped, shamed and eventually being crucified. He felt the loneliness and isolation

when He said: MY God my God why has thou forsaken me?

He knows and sees what is happening in our world. He knows of the evil that dictators gets up to...but He rules forever, today and tomorrow. We should carry HIS HOPE with us, always and ever.

In the light of the terrible state of the world, we cannot blame God. We need to have a very hard look at ourselves and ask the questions: when did we start to exploit the earth? When did we allow and tolerate the people's need for God to be absent in our society?

When did we start to rely so heavily on worldly **riches** and material comforts that now we cannot live without them?

When did we start to forget to see the rainbow after the rain, the leaves of trees moving in the wind, the sound of bees and birds and other creatures around us?

When did we stop to stand still and pray to God for HIS help and protection?



When did we stop to dance
whilst looking up to
experience God's presence
....

God is indeed everywhere. And just like names mattered in Biblical times, so they

matter now. God's name must be respected at all times. He is Jahweh... He is our LORD and Saviour, ADONAI. He is, and will be with us whenever we say, breath and sing HIS HOLY name.

When Moses realised this he could face his people and the mighty Pharaoh. We can do the same...

Let's learn from this story. God wants to use every single one of us too, despite our circumstances.

In the world, and here in his church. In this congregation. God gave every single one of

us the talents we need to make this place
what he wants it to be.

What is it that he wants you to do? ...

Don't hesitate.

Just go do it! Because through his Spirit
God is living inside you, and through his
Spirit, God will give you whatever you need
to get the job done.

*Breath God's name in, and out, and know
that you are never alone. Amen*

Choir sings "Lifting my eyes up to the hills"

Prayer of thanksgiving Lesley Burt

CH3 381

I will sing the wondrous story

Blessing

Receive the blessing of the Lord, and go in peace:

And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and holy Spirit, be with you all and with all whom you love. On this day, and forever more.

Amen, Amen, Amen

Prayer

Creative God,
you called us into your
kingdom, and adopted us
as your children.

Redeeming
Saviour,
you showed us how to be
servants, denying
ourselves to serve
others.

Sustaining Spirit, you give us strength to
take up our cross in the service of the
kingdom of God.

Teach us to serve
others, and in doing
so, to serve you.

Amen.



You are invited to a cup of coffee or tea in the Ogston Hall.