

Call to Worship, John the Baptist

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Today is the feast the nativity of John the Baptist. In the gospel today we have the story of the naming of John the Baptist. We know John as the precursor of Jesus – the one who preached repentance, who believed he was not worthy to untie Jesus' sandal.

We know he dressed in sackcloth and ashes - the signs of repentance, mourning and humility. John embraced his call, as prophet. His life pointed to Jesus. John's name means God has been gracious and John spent his life pointing people to this gracious God.

A naming ceremony is important to build relationship. We cannot bond with people if we do not know their names. We all respond to the ways that people say our names.

Think about your name. Do you know what it means? Think about the ways the people say your name: with love, care or kindness....how different that is when someone is angry with you...

Have you heard God call you by name? Does God have a special name for you?

This week, pay attention to peoples' names. Look up the meaning of your name and those your love. Have a conversation about it. Say another's name with love and care. Share the blessing of their name – and yours!