

NAME

We gave it a name, Father.

At first, we could only speak of
an unknown illness,
a virus,
a coronavirus—

Then we gave it a label, a name:
Covid-19.

It's clinical,
scientific,
not designed to inspire,
but simply to identify.

Yet, somehow,
The name makes it real,
authentic,
gives it substance;
Allows us to understand it,
to identify related viruses,
and potential remedies.

So now,
When people ask: What is it?
Then for those who seek to understand,
Its name makes known its character,
its qualities,
how we may relate to it,
and how it relates to us.

Father, God, you have many names:

Jehovah, I am, Lord Almighty, Holy One, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Wonderful Counsellor, Prince of
Peace, Christ, Messiah, Lamb of God, Son of God,
Redeemer, Spirit of God, Spirit of Christ, Spirit of Truth
... and more.

When people ask, Who are you?

Then for those who seek to understand.

Your names make known your character

your qualities,

how we may relate to you,

and how you relate to us.

Help me to know you

Through all your names.

GOD, brilliant Lord, yours is a household name. Nursing infants gurgle choruses about you; toddlers shout the songs that drown out enemy talk, and silence atheist babble. I look up at your macro-skies, dark and enormous, your handmade sky-jewellery, moon and stars mounted in their settings. Then I look at my micro-self and wonder, Why do you bother with us? Why take a second look our way? ... GOD, brilliant Lord, your name echoes around the world. (Psalm 8: 1-4, 9, MSG)