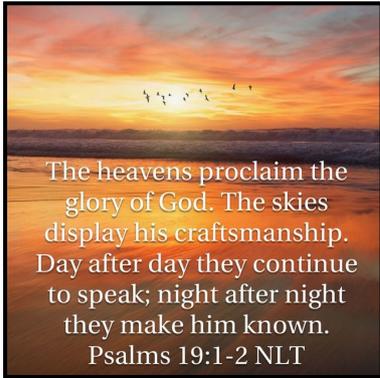


Battle Baptist Church

Being Transformed Together



17th May 2020



The supremacy of Christ

This week we have been told that the peak of Covid-19 has passed and we now need to start moving in the direction of slowly getting life back to some kind 'new normal', even if no one is quite sure what that looks like at the moment. Most of us like to plan things out and know what's ahead so this is a difficult thing to get your head around. We accepted that lockdown was necessary for a period of time but then things would go back to how they used to be, right? We have learned that it's not that simple. I've sometimes tried to imagine what might be going on in the mind of someone who says there is no God and that we are all here by a series of random events way back when. In the current situation this is quite a scary thought and the world becomes a chaotic and frightening place in which to live.

I have recently been studying part of Colossians 1 as part of my theology course and it has been so encouraging to dig into this in the light of all that's going on around us. Paul wrote this letter to the church in Colossae, acknowledging their faithfulness and love for others and but also to encourage them at a time when not only was persecution their reality, but some of the teaching they were receiving was just plain wrong - mixed up with the beliefs of other cults and religions within the city. Paul writes that he and Timothy have *not stopped* praying for them, for God to fill them with spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that they might 'live a life worthy of the Lord', 'be strengthened with all power according to his glorious might' and 'have great endurance and patience' (Col 1:10-13). Not wishing to compare our trials with theirs, I think there is much to take from these verses

for our own current situation and I notice particularly that it all comes from a place of persistent prayer.

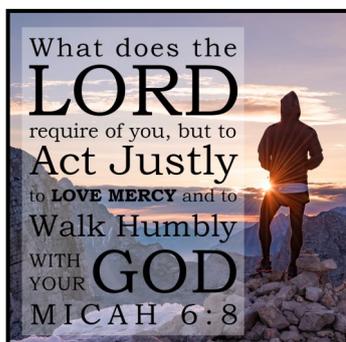
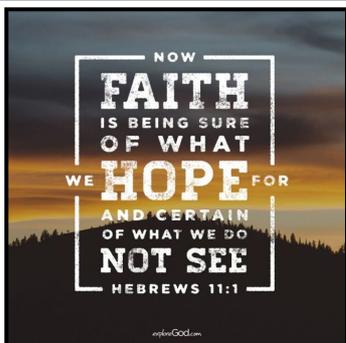
Through a wonderful piece of poetry, the structure of which has sadly been lost in some modern translations, Paul goes on to explain to these confused believers that Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over *all* creation, by him *all things* were created, he is before *all things*, and in him *all things* hold together. He holds supremacy over *all things* including death and is the head of the Church. God has reconciled *all things* to = himself through Jesus' death and resurrection. I like the words of The Message to explain this - "all the broken and dislocated pieces of the universe—people and things, animals and atoms—get properly fixed and fit together in vibrant harmonies, all because of his death, his blood that poured down from the cross" (MSG 18-20).

There is no space to explore this further here, but why not look up Colossians 1:15-20? Study it and be encouraged in these times where our faith is challenged, and anxiety for the future lurks in the back of our minds. For believers, it certainly reminds us to take a step back and look at the wider picture. One day Jesus *will* return to 'properly fix' things to how they were always meant to be. We can join together in 'giving joyful thanks to the Father' (v12) in declaring this wonderful truth!

Yours in Christ

Shirley Whymark

"I am the first and I am the last;
apart from me there is no God.
Who then is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and lay out before me what has happened since I established my ancient people, and what is yet to come—yes, let them foretell what will come. Do not tremble, do not be afraid.
Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago?
You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me? No, there is no other Rock; I know not one."'
Isaiah 44:6-8



PRAYING FOR...

The health of our world

- We pray for all those who have been, and are continuing to be, affected by COVID-19.
- We pray for those who are particularly fearful at the moment.
- We pray for the most vulnerable and isolated in our neighbourhoods.
- We pray for the medical staff on the front line of care, we pray that they will be sustained physically, emotionally and spiritually in the coming weeks.
- We pray for those leading the response to COVID-19 across the world.
- We pray in the name of 'him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine'. (Ephesians 4:20)

NEWSLETTER

17th May 2020

Battle Baptist Church
Being Transformed Together

Battle Baptist Church is part of Life with Hope Trust; registered charity 1134288, Mount Street, Battle,

East Sussex TN33 0EG.

• Website: www.battlebaptistchurch.org.uk

• Telephone and answerphone (01424) 774825 • Email:

office@battlebaptistchurch.org.uk

• Caterpillar Preschool direct telephone line: (01424) 774997.

Church maintenance issues:

zionpremisesteam@gmail.com



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Calling all Sunday Clubbers! Tim would love to have a chat with you all! Get your parents to email Tim at battlebaptistyouth@gmail.com to find out the details for the Zoom meeting. We will have a chat after the service on Sunday. See you then!

R.E.A.L. Women— We are meeting to chat each Tuesday morning at 10am via Zoom. Go to our Facebook page to find the details you need.

Quiz Time! On Bank Holiday Monday (25th May), Ted Webb will host a quiz on the BBC YouTube channel. Join us online from 7.15pm—the quiz will start at 7.30pm.

Foodbank— Steve reports that the Foodbank has seen increased numbers attending recently, many at least partly due to COVID-19. Although we have had

wonderful from the community, we are now short of the following items: tins of hot meat (ie pies etc that can be heated up), cold meat, potatoes, fruit and custard. We also need small bags of sugar and treats. We would be very grateful for any donations of these items. Many thanks for your support—as always.

Financial Hardship – We recognise that due to the current lockdown there may be some in our Church family who are experiencing greater financial hardship. Please contact either Ed, Rita or Charles in the strictest confidence to explore what support may be available.

Pray for...

All in our community experiencing economic hardship and uncertainty about the future.

Pray for...

The staff of Caterpillar Pre-School, as they prepare to welcome children back from 1st June—and all the issues that this presents.

Pray for...

Our church leaders: for Ed, the elders and the deacons as they meet (virtually), pray, and seek to discern God's will for BBC.

A guide to personal devotions

While we are not meeting collectively, why not use this guide for your personal devotions?

Pause, be still and invite God to meet you afresh, filling you by His Holy Spirit.

Pray giving thanks for all God's goodness

Worship

If you have a Worship CD, DVD or the means to go online and listen to something why not play a worship song, you don't have to sing along if you're not comfortable doing so or can't: simply listen to the words

Read a Psalm

The Psalms are a great source of hope and help, written in good times and bad. Pick one; read it through slowly. Pause. Read it through again.

What is God saying?

Give space allowing time for God to speak. What is he saying? Is he speaking to you personally or is it a message for the wider church?

Prayers for others

1) Use the prayer on the reverse side of this. It is taken from the Baptist Together website and their call to prayer in response to the Coronavirus. They rightly encourage us to play in being a Beacon of Hope at the moment. They remind us that our neighbours and communities need love, hope, peace and an eternal perspective and we can offer this in abundance, in the name of Jesus (2 Corinthians 4:18).

2) Pray for different ministries of the church, even though they are not meeting at this time. Think of the different people who usually attend and the reasons and aims of the activities.

3) Using the church members' directory take a page a day, and pray through the names.

Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer is a great resource that Jesus gave us.

Grace

Why not conclude by saying the grace, as we often do when we gather together, only picture those you would usually be looking at, as you say it?