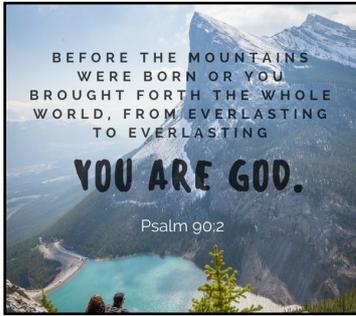


# Battle Baptist Church

## Being Transformed Together



10th January 2021



### 'Do you have eyes but fail to see; ears but fail to listen?'

As some of you know, I am a keen bird spotter: an ornithological evangelist!

I was delighted to pursue this interest by recently giving the priceless present of an 'I Spy' bird book to fellow staff members.

Many years ago, I worked in the accounts department at Saga Holidays. This is bizarre, as anyone who knows me would quickly realise that, although I thrive in the area of holidays, maths, order and paperwork are not my strong points!

Once, at the end of a long working day, I was exiting the building with a large group of staff when a Christian work colleague shouted, 'Tim look at that flower!' I was flustered and felt like every eye was on me rather than the vegetation, especially when he followed up with the statement, 'God made that for you!' My embarrassment was complete!

Over the years I have thought about my awkwardness, and the statement. I have come to the conclusion that there was an error in his assumption. The reality was that the flower existed whether I noticed it or not, but God gave me the eyes and perception to see the flower.

I had to pause to notice it.

At a time when the world has been forced to 'pause' because of the pandemic, the words of a Trappist monk scribbled in my journal come back to me: 'Atheism is the religion of the busy.'

Many times in the gospels, Jesus said, 'Those who have ears to hear...' which I guess related to the majority of the people who came along to listen to him. So, in effect, he was saying, 'Listen closer or you'll miss it; be receptive.'

Jesus' stories (parables) were used for people to be able to recall, and no doubt for entertainment value (pigs in prodigal son, priest in Good Samaritan), as well as for the Teacher to embed truth and practical or spiritual principles. Over the next few weeks, the zoomy youth group will be looking at some of the lesser-known parables of Jesus, as well as learning a bit of Hebrew!

As the giver of books, I am saying, 'Don't miss out on fluttery things in this incredible world we live in.'

As the giver of life, Jesus is saying, 'Don't miss out; look into the incredible words I am saying'.

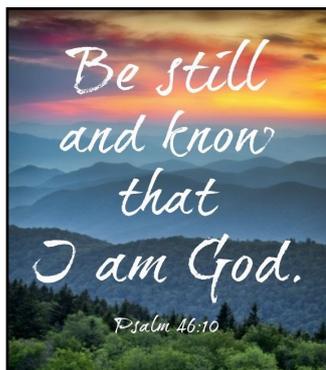
Tim Fudge

\*Mark 8:18



'...the Lord passed by and a mighty windstorm hit the mountain. It was such a terrible blast that the rocks were torn loose, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake there was a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there was the sound of a gentle whisper.'

I Kings 19:11-13



## PRAYER POINTERS

### COVID-19

Pray for the staff of the NHS as the pressure of the pandemic takes its toll. That people will behave responsibly. Give thanks for the availability of vaccines: may they be administered efficiently.

### Caterpillar Pre-School

Lockdown is creating real financial pressures for Pre-School: funding will not be supplied if parents withdraw their children. Pray for wisdom and guidance for Jo Garlick and the Trustees as they make difficult decisions.

### Education

Pray for children, young people and students as they adapt to learning from home. Pray for parents as they try to support them and work themselves. Pray particularly for vulnerable children—for basic needs such as food and warmth.

# NEWSLETTER

10th January 2021

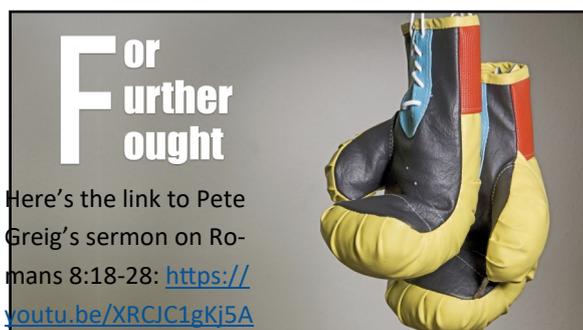
**Battle Baptist Church**  
*Being Transformed Together*

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

**Church maintenance issues:**  
[zionpremisesteam@gmail.com](mailto:zionpremisesteam@gmail.com)



## Prayer tools

Pete Greig's book 'How to pray' (Hodder & Stoughton, 2019), accompanies the [Prayer Course](#) which some LIFEgroups worked through a while ago. The course is supported by additional material which offers practical introductions to the following topics:

### **Pray Everywhere**

How to pray the Lord's Prayer

### **Keeping it Simple**

How to have a Quiet Time

How to pray the Examen

### **Slowing and Centring**

Breath Prayer

### **Adoration**

How to pray the Psalms

How to Practise Christian Meditation

How to pray creatively

How to practise the presence of God

### **Petition**

Palms up, palms down

How to maintain a prayer list

How to pray the promises of God

### **Intercession**

# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **COVID-19 pandemic— National**

### **Lockdown:**

On the basis of advice from the Baptist Union, our own risk assessment, and the local situation in terms of the pandemic, Trustees and Elders have agreed that the church will not be open for communal worship during lockdown. We continue to proactively explore how and when this may become practical and possible. Thus, for the time being, all BBC activities will continue online.

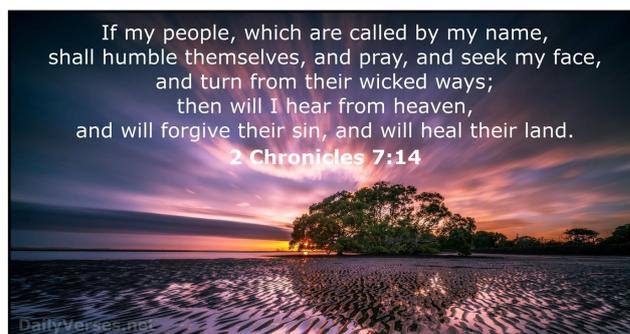
**Reflections:** Check out our [YouTube](#) channel for weekly reading of the Psalms and other material. The [Navigate](#) discipleship films will restart in February.

**'For Further Fought':** Additional resources will be shared on a weekly basis to encourage us all to 'continue to grapple with the truths of God, and their impact

and relevance for today.' Access Pete Greig's sermon ('Prayer: the groaning of life') via the link below (press **ctrl** and **click** to access).

**Ordinary Church Meeting:** the first church meeting of 2021 will take place on Tuesday 19th January at 7.30pm. The agenda has been circulated; codes for the meeting will be shared in due course.

**BBC Week of Prayer:** We are all called to join in a week of prayer from Sunday 24th—Sunday 31st January, from 9am—9pm each day. More details will be presented at the church meeting. We will write to those members who are offline. In the lead up to the week of prayer, why not explore some of the prayer resources available via the Prayer Course's [Toolshed?](#) See below for more details.



How to run a non-boring prayer meeting

How to intercede for a large scale crisis (praying the 3 Ps)

A circle prayer

### **Unanswered Prayer**

The prayer of relinquishment

How to lament

### **Contemplation**

Silent prayer

How to take a one-day retreat

How to undertake a pilgrimage

### **Listening**

How to speak in tongues

How to do the Lectio Divina

How to journal

How to turn parenting into prayer

### **Confession and Reconciliation**

How to pray the Jesus prayer

How to confess sin

### **Spiritual Warfare**

Warfare prayer

How to fast

### **Amen**

How to run a 24/7 prayer room