

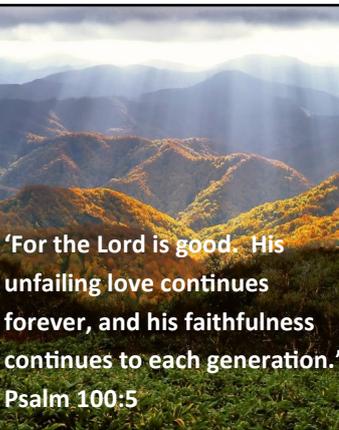
Battle Baptist Church

Being Transformed Together



17th January 2021

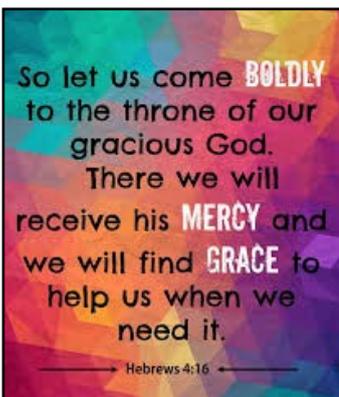
'Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name. Bring an offering and come before him: worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness.'
1 Chronicles 16: 29,30



'For the Lord is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation.'
Psalm 100:5

'Without question, this is the great mystery of our faith: Christ was revealed in a human body and vindicated by the Spirit. He was seen by angels and announced to the nations. He was believed throughout the world and taken to heaven in glory.'

1 Timothy 3:16



So let us come **BOLDLY** to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his **MERCY** and we will find **GRACE** to help us when we need it.

Hebrews 4:16

Sofa Supporters?

Despite living with an ardent football fan for many years (this being my brother not my husband!) the first time I ever actually *went* to a football match was only a couple of years ago. The mighty Portsmouth had got through to one of the lesser cup finals and so Ted, Midge and I had a day out to Wembley Stadium.

Watching from up in the gods, I was so far away from the action on the pitch, but it was an incredible experience. The atmosphere was party-like, buzzing with excitement, and the volume level – well, Ted had advised me to wear ear plugs but even with them in, it sounded at a normal level. The whole thing was amazing!

Recently, I've seen TV coverage of football matches that, due to COVID-19, are being held behind closed doors. To start with, the games were played in what seemed like very sterile arenas but now, if you listen, there is the sound of crowd noise and cheering on. Occasionally this is being piped into the stadium itself, but usually it is added as the match is being aired to TV.

I imagine though, that if all the cheers of the now sofa-bound supporters could somehow be combined, the volume of their support for their teams would still be as deafening.

Likewise, we can no longer gather to 'support' our team, but this does not mean to say that our 'volume' must go down. The early church was encouraged to encourage:

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up," (1 Thes 5:11). "May the God

who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind *towards each other* that Christ Jesus had," (Rom 15:9, my italics). "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds," (Heb 10:24).

Now I'm not suggesting that on a Sunday morning, we just sit and shout loudly at our screens for Ed and Emma and the backstage crew, deserved though that indubitably is, but rather that we could all look at our individual circumstances, and see how we can 'cheer on' someone we know.

When in life gets tough we pray: "I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." (Psalm 121:1,2)

And the Lord without doubt *does* breakthrough and touch our lives directly, but as often as not, it is God-prompted human interaction that helps us through.

So, especially after Ed's call last Sunday to pray for and keep in contact with our scattered church family, let us be encouraged to encourage. Ask that the Lord will direct you, through prayer or whatever way He sees fit, to that person or circumstance that needs His touch in human form; in order that we will all emerge from this pandemic spiritually strong, emotionally encouraged, and ready to take on whatever the world and the church in 2021 will look like.

God bless,

Caroline

(And in case you were wondering – Portsmouth won!)

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

After a week of policy about-turns, the good news is that Caterpillar can now remain open five days a week. Please pray particularly for Jo Garlick as she manages staff and deals with families in such demanding times.

For those living alone

As we enter a third period of lockdown, and as we find the pandemic on our doorstep, pray for all those who are feeling lonely, isolated and depressed. For support with practical things like shopping and medicine. To feel valued and loved.

NEWSLETTER

17th January 2021

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:

Church maintenance issues:
zionpremisesteam@gmail.com



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Young People in years 7-13: Steve Legg, magician and entertainer, joins us for our Zoom meeting at 5pm this Sunday (17th)! ("He's genuinely very good." - Ed) Don't miss it!

'For Further Fought...': There is now a page on the BBC website that has the links to the materials suggested for further study and reflection. This week's suggested resource is a podcast from the Bible Project, 'What does the word 'gospel' mean?'

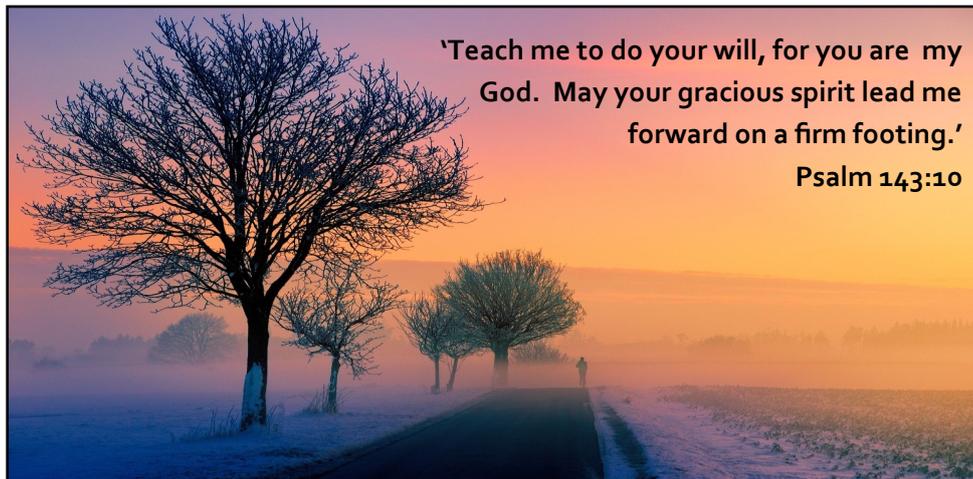
Ordinary Church Meeting, Tuesday 19th January at 7.30pm: For safeguarding reasons, when you join the Zoom meeting, it would be very helpful if you could identify yourself by a recognisable name, not a code for your device.

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.

Quiz Night, Friday 22nd January: Why not form a team and join us for another fun quiz night hosted by Ted? Email Caroline at battlebaptistyouth@gmail.com if you would like to take part, and she will email you the codes.

WORLD VIEW

Some fantastic news just in from Clare Grimble: "The Okhaldhunga Hospital Agreement with the Government has just been signed! This is a huge achievement since central government is in chaos at the moment, with splits in the ruling party and attempts to dissolve parliament. The agreement gives us permission to run the hospital and all its services, and work visas for the expatriates, for the next 5 years."



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?