

Battle Baptist Church

Being Transformed Together



9th May 2021



Waiting...

Growing up with a competitive younger brother, meant that almost anything could be turned into a competition. From which of us could run to our front door the quickest; who could stay quiet for the longest period; and, around springtime, who could make their Easter chocolate last the longest. It required determination and patience to savour each and every morsel of chocolate: who would have the strongest will power to wait? This tradition has transferred to our family, with the last of some Easter chocolate being consumed in this past week.

The 13th May next week marks 40 days after Resurrection Sunday and it is known as Ascension Day. It celebrates when Jesus ascends into heaven; the full account can be found in Acts 1. Jesus spent 40 days with his disciples after his resurrection, appearing to them, eating with them, and speaking to them about the kingdom of God. The disciples expected Jesus to bring a full physical restoration to Israel right there and then and they asked him directly about this. Jesus bats this question away with a quick response and instead reminds them that they will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes: they are to be his witnesses to the end of the earth. He then disappears from sight and is taken up into heaven. They are left standing there once again with more questions than answers. Two angels encourage them that Jesus will one day return, but for now they need to wait.

Through my walk with Jesus, he reminds me regularly that there is blessing in seasons of waiting. Often I can find waiting for things a

challenge, particularly over this past year with changing guidelines and many announcements which has led to frequent altering of expectations. Through these times I am reminded of what the Psalmist says in Psalm 40:

*I waited patiently for the Lord;
he turned to me and heard my cry.*

*He lifted me out of the slimy pit,
out of the mud and mire;
he set my feet on a rock
and gave me a firm place to stand.*

*He put a new song in my mouth,
a hymn of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear the Lord
and put their trust in him.*

We are encouraged to wait patiently for God. But this would have been a big ask for those first disciples. These verses from Psalm 40 remind us of who God is: He is the one who hears our prayers; He is the one who lifts us out of difficult situations; He is the who gives us a firm place to stand; He can give us a song of praise when all we feel is despair. What is required of us? To wait patiently - that is it!

As we wait for restrictions to diminish, for more vaccines to be administered, to see and hug missed family and friends, may God help us to wait patiently. As you wait God is with you, he has heard your cry.

Peace be with you.

Emma

'Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise, in the city of our God, his holy mountain... For this God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end.'

Psalm 48:1,14

'Imitate God, therefore, in all you do because you are his dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ.'

Ephesians 5:1,2a

What does the LORD require of you, but to Act Justly to LOVE MERCY and to Walk Humbly WITH YOUR GOD
MICAH 6:8



PRAYER POINTERS

Claire Grimble

Claire's planned and much needed break in the UK (including a visit here on 27th June) is in doubt as Nepal has suspended international flights because of COVID-19. Please pray that God will open up a way for her to make her trip.

COVID-19

'The only way that you're going to adequately respond to a global pandemic is by having a global response, and a global response means equity throughout the world.' (Dr Anthony Fauci). Pray for India; pray for the COVAX effort.

Renew Wellbeing

Please pray for Emma as she leads this project locally. Thank God for the opportunity for positive collaboration with fellow Christians in Battle. Pray especially for guidance as we seek premises on the High St and the finances to run Renew.

NEWSLETTER

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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:
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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday Worship: Please contact the office in advance if you would like to book a seat in the chapel or Manna House on Sundays.

Chosta restarts tomorrow, 10th May: For young people in years 7-13. Meet Caroline, Tim, Jenny and Melanie in the Youth Room from 3.45pm until 5.15pm for games, discussion and more.

BTFC Running Club, Wednesdays: We welcome runners of any ability to join us. Meet at the church at 6.30pm. From 26th May we will be starting a new 'couch to 5k' course. Please contact Esther or Kevin if you'd like to take part. Find out more via our [Facebook](#) page.

Weekly Prayer Rhythms: The staff team meet to pray every Monday and Thursday at 9.30am. Why not join us in spirit? Emma leads a weekly prayer slot on Wednesdays via Zoom from 12 noon until 12.30pm. And plans are afoot to restart early morning prayers on Fridays from 7.30am until 8.15am.

Crèche and Sunday Club from June 27th: Please be prayerfully considering whether you could be part of the team providing this important ministry to the youngest in our fellowship. Contact Tim to discuss further.

WORLD VIEW

Syria: Michel was born on 8 March 2011, two days after the start of the civil war that has wreaked havoc across Syria for a decade. In 2014 Michel, parents Rasha and Elias and sister Jessica were forcibly displaced when Islamic troops announced over loudspeakers that all Christians should leave their home town. They ended up in Latakia where, thanks to support, Elias was able to set up a grocery shop to support his family. 'Thank God for the church and the way they stood by us,' Rasha says. Michel has a favourite verse: 'He heals the broken-hearted' (Pss 147.13). (source: Open Doors):

Prayer meetings

Dates for your diary! We will gather next for prayer on 8th June and 8th July, from 7.30pm (via Zoom until further notice).

Family Service

Our first family service of 2021 will take place in the chapel on 23rd May at 4pm. Contact Tim to book a place.

Pentecost

Join us for 24 hours of prayer leading into the celebration of Pentecost from 9am Sat 22nd May through to 9am on Sunday 23rd.

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) Continue to pray over the pandemic. The Baptist Union rightly encourages us to play a part 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?