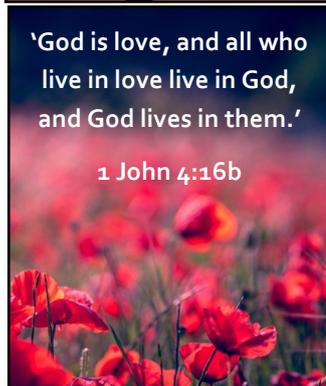
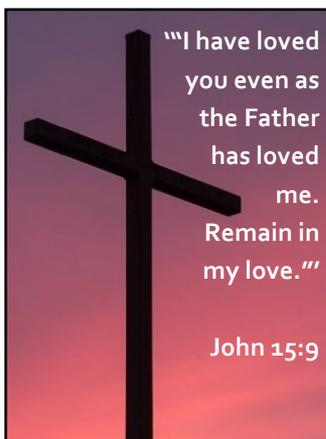
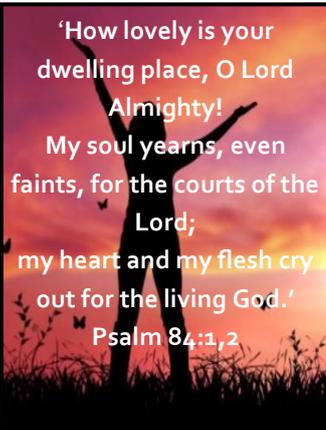


Battle Baptist Church

Being Transformed Together



25th July 2021



Blessed be His name

Ages ago, I remember Ed showing a video one Sunday morning which struck me powerfully. It was about Yahweh, the name of our God, which translates from the Hebrew as 'I am'. The film explained that in Hebrew, Yahweh is more correctly written 'YHWH' and that these consonants are not articulated with lips and tongue. The consonants make a sound similar to inhalation and exhalation: in one sense the name of God cannot literally be 'spoken' but is to be *breathed*. This reminds me that at the beginning of our world, God 'breathed the breath of life' into Adam's nostrils, 'and the man became a living person' (Gen 2:7). The great 'I AM' has always been as close to us as the breath we breathe; he is at the heart of our beings - if only we will invite him in - a fact that I find profoundly humbling as well as deeply reassuring.

In Exodus, when God reveals his glory to Moses, he himself declares:
'Yahweh! The Lord!

The God of compassion and mercy!
I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness.

I lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations.

I forgive iniquity, rebellion and sin.'
(Exod 34:6,7a)

These words are echoed throughout the Old Testament (Deut 7:12, Neh 9:17, Ps 103:10,11, Isa 53:3 are just some examples). This mighty, creator God, this YHWH, is available and accessible to us as our breathing: his compassion, mercy, love and faithfulness are offered to us all.

Jesus declares his divinity to the Samaritan

woman at the well using similar language: "'I AM the Messiah!'" (John 4:26). When teaching the disciples how to pray, he emphasizes the importance of his Father's name (Matt 6:9). Reflecting on God's name being 'I AM' has made me think differently about the 'I am' statements of Jesus that we read about in John's gospel. I realise that Jesus' contemporary audience would probably have made the connection between the YHWH of the Torah and would have understood that Jesus' declarations were also another way of him claiming his status as the son of God. With the privilege of having access to the Bible in its entirety, I can see that Jesus uses these statements in part to show his oneness with the Father, and to point to the mystery of the Holy Trinity. When Jesus says, 'I am the way', he tells us that he is the path to the Father. As 'the truth' in him we see the reality of all God's promises; and when he declares that he is 'the life', he is saying that he joins his divine life to ours both now and eternally (John 14:6). What a wonderful Saviour!

After his resurrection, again in John's account, Jesus appears to his disciples who are meeting behind locked doors out of fear and uncertainty as to what the future holds. Jesus greets them and says, "'As the Father sent me, so I am sending you.'" We then read, 'Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit"' (John 20:21,22). A fresh in-filling of YHWH.

Breathe deeply. Remember that Jesus said, "'I am with you always, even to the end of the age"' (Matt 28:20). To borrow a phrase, 'When the world says, 'no way', we say 'Yahweh'.' Blessed be His name!

Jo

(first published 29/03/20)

PRAYER POINTERS

Indonesia

In Indonesia, restrictions on movement because of the pandemic have led to a sharp increase in levels of deprivation, with 27.55m living below the poverty line. COVID support programmes have been 'mired in allegations of corruption'.¹

For our fellowship

Please pray for those in our fellowship who are ill, and for those who have long term health issues. For good sleep and a closeness to our Saviour. For resilience and peace. Pray especially for Sue Barter who is in hospital.

Love and loss

Pray for all those who have lost loved ones during the pandemic. For those who felt unable to say goodbye as they would have wanted to. And especially for Tony Rymell, Gina Hibell, Pauline Glover and Craig Cattell.

NEWSLETTER

25th July 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

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

Church maintenance issues:

zionpremisesteam@gmail.com



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

COVID-19 - Easing of Restrictions: A detailed letter has been emailed or delivered to everyone in our fellowship. To summarise, when using the church, please:

- Sign in / register
- Sanitise your hands
- Wear a mask when moving around
- Wear a mask when singing
- Maintain social distancing
- Follow Government guidelines regarding isolation
- Engage with NHS Test and Trace

Social Events for Young People: Tim and Caroline have organised a programme of events for young people over the summer holidays and have communicated this to families. All the information can be found on Facebook: search for 'Battle Baptist Youth.'

Men's Breakfast: Please join us for breakfast at The Chequers on Saturday 4th September from 9am. More details to follow.

Marriage Course: This course has been postponed.

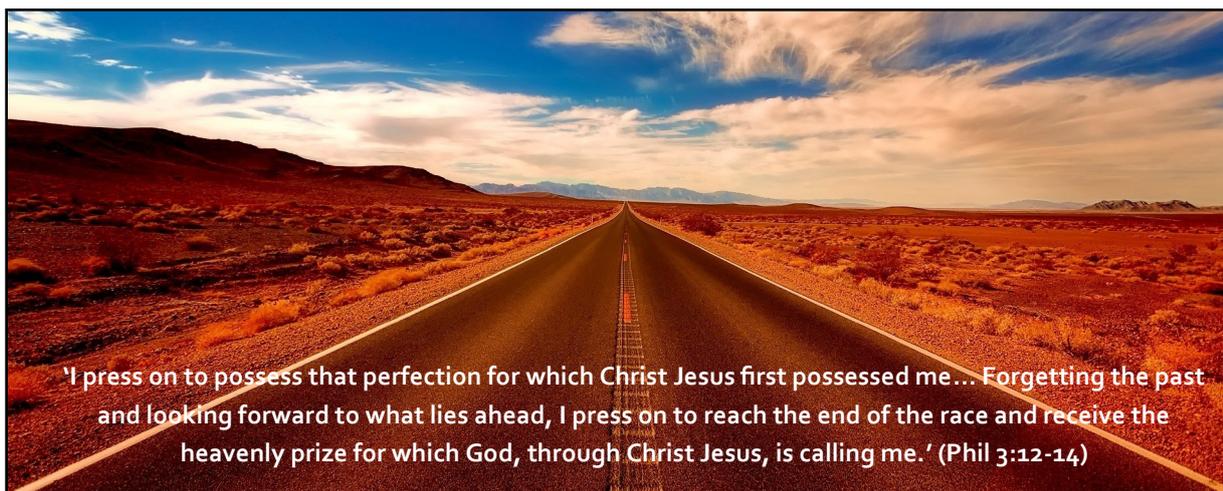
BBC Survey - Please complete and submit or return your survey by 8th August.

WORLD VIEW

Africa - As the climate crisis intensifies, invasions from fall armyworms – the larvae of a type of moth – have been devastating farmers' crops across southern and central Africa. 'A lot of fields were attacked,' shares Anne Mumbi, who leads Tearfund's work in Zambia. 'But – in the area where we have local houses of prayer – the people went and spoke blessings over their land, and as a result they didn't have any attacks. We have tremendous testimonies of what God is doing.'

Prayer is powerful. Let us spend some time asking God how he wants to use your prayer life to make a difference.

Source - Tearfund



'I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me... Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling me.' (Phil 3:12-14)

What's on this week....

The Caterpillar Pre-School is closed for the summer holidays

Sunday 25th July

- 10.30am **Worship Gathering:** online or at the chapel (please book your seats in advance)

Monday 26th July

- 9.30 - 10am **Prayer meeting**

Tuesday 27th July

- 10 - 11am **Walking Football** at the Rec

Wednesday 28th July

- 10 - 12 noon **Renew 1066** at Cherry Gardens
- 12 - 12.30pm **Prayer meeting** via Zoom
- 6.30pm **BTFC Runners** meet at the chapel

Thursday 29th July

- 9.30 - 10am **Prayer Meeting**

Friday 30th July

- 7.30 - 8.15am **Early Morning Prayers** in the Youth Room

Sunday 25th July

- 10.30am **Worship Gathering** online or at the chapel (please book your seats in advance)

¹Source: The Guardian, 22/07/21