

Battle Baptist Church

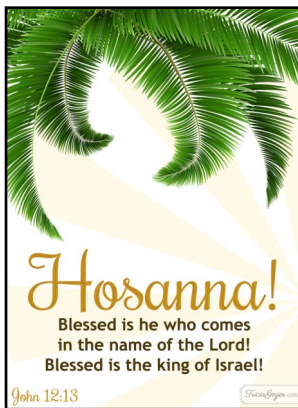
Being Transformed Together



24th March 2024



HOLY WEEK



'True and humble King,
hailed by the crowd as
Messiah: grant us the faith to
know and to love you, that
we may be found beside you
on the way of the cross,
which is the path to glory.'

The Collect for Palm Sunday



'Though he was God, he did
not think of equality with God
as something to cling to.
Instead he gave up his divine
privileges; he took the
humble position of a slave
and was born as a human
being. When he appeared in
human form, he humbled
himself in obedience to God
and died a criminal's death on
a cross.'

Philippians 2:6-8

Journeying with Jesus

Over the last couple of weeks, in the children's group on Sundays, we have been looking at the character Nicodemus. Mentioned three times in the book of John, it's his progression of faith that interests me.

Nicodemus is first mentioned in John 3, as he sneaks up on Jesus by night. "Why was this?" I pondered during the week, as I prepared for Sunday Club. Best thing to do, if unsure, is to put it 'out there' and see what the children come up with. I was hoping that their answers would agree with my thoughts on the matter. Annoyingly, they were more 'on it' and came up with, "It was less busy at night, so it wouldn't be so crowded, making it easier to talk." Not bad. Then someone else chipped in, "If he was important, he may not have wanted to embarrass Jesus." Now impressed and out of my depth, I reverted to the standard, "He was nervous of being seen with Jesus!"

The second time Nicodemus is mentioned was with his peers, the Pharisees - a group of religious leaders who LOVED rules and enforcing them. Turns out they are not alone in this. Much Google research has uncovered a whole spectrum of laws:

North Korea

- Three-generation punishment
- Only Government-approved haircuts (mine's out!)
- Disrespecting the leader (or his haircut) could mean the death penalty
- Bible and iPhones banned

Alabama

- No driving blindfolded
- No wearing of false moustaches to church

Florida

- It is illegal to pass wind in a public place after

6pm on Thursdays

What about the Pharisees? Well, apart from some crazy rules about donkeys, camels etc, many of their rules centred around the fourth commandment: keeping the Sabbath holy eg:
- You could not spit on the ground on the Sabbath (because it would disturb the dirt and be guilty of ploughing)
- You could not swat a fly on the Sabbath (because you would be guilty of hunting)

The Pharisees were angry at almost everything Jesus did and his claims. They were seeking to catch and kill him. But Nicodemus, also a Pharisee, says the following, "Does our law condemn a man without first hearing him to find out what he has been doing?" The Pharisees replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Look into it, and you will find that a prophet does not come out of Galilee."

This time, Nicodemus wasn't hiding in the dark, "Are you with him too?" the Pharisees asked. It was an uncomfortable question, from his colleagues. Looks like he didn't respond.

He could have mentioned that the prophet Jonah came from the area. He could have said, "I don't know Jesus - I only met him once."

What we do know is what he did at the time of Jesus' burial. Male disciples having fled in fear, Nicodemus (along with Joseph of Arimathea) anointed Jesus' body and laid it to rest in a tomb.

We are all on a journey with Jesus, sometimes in the dark. Sometimes we are brave, sometimes uncomfortable.

Bring on Easter!

Tim

PRAYER POINTERS

Sudan

The UN says that 25m people in Sudan need humanitarian aid, with a looming food crisis and risk of famine. '[Sudan's war is also a vortex of transnational conflicts and global rivalries that threaten to set a wider region aflame.](#)'

Nepal

'Nepal's anti-conversion law restricts religious conversion and the free expression of faith.' [BMS prayer diary p15](#) Please pray for Clare Grimble and the work of BMS in Nepal as they 'point to the one who can bring about total transformation.'

Easter outreach

This Tuesday, year 4 children from B&L will come here for 'The Great Hot Cross Bun Hunt'. We thank God for this opportunity. Please pray for Caroline as she prepares; and that those attending will be receptive to the gospel.

NEWSLETTER

24th March 2024

Battle Baptist Church
Being Transformed Together

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

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Church maintenance issues:
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NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please note that there will be **no After School Club** this Thursday (28th).

Evening gatherings: we will not meet on Sundays at 6pm on either 7th or 14th April.

Warm Welcome: We will stop serving lunches at Renew 1066 after Easter. Many thanks to everyone who has prepared and donated dishes over the past four months: typically, 25 people have enjoyed lunch here each week as a result. Particular thanks to Shelagh and the team for cooking, serving and clearing up.

Community events over the Easter holidays: All activities for children and young people will take a break as usual. Renew 1066 will meet on 3rd & 10th April. Coffee Club will not meet on Good Friday, but will gather on 5th and 12th April.

News from SEBA: Rev Andy Twilley has been appointed as a third regional minister for SEBA. He will be overseeing BBC as part of his remit. Read a short biography of him [here](#).

WTC Kingdom Theology event: Ali Blacklee Whittall will give a lecture at Ashburnham entitled 'Hidden Redemptions in the book of Ruth,' on Weds 17th April at 6.30pm. Free. More details [here](#).

Dates for your diary: The next days of prayer and fasting are planned for Thurs 16th May and Thurs 11th July. Our next social event will be a lunchtime trip to the Three Legs Brewery on Sat 18th May. More details to follow.

Prayer Requests: Email your prayer requests to the prayer ministry team at: battlebaptistchurchprayer@gmail.com.

'Christ died once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again, not to deal with sin, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for him.'

Hebrews 9:28 (NLT)



What's on this week...

Caterpillar Pre-School is open Monday to Thursday this week.

Sunday 24th March - Palm Sunday

- 10am **Morning Gathering** at the Chapel
- 6 - 7.30pm **Evening gathering** at the Chapel

Monday 25th March

- 8am **Holy Week Devotions** at the Catholic Church
- 9 - 11am **Caterpillar Toddlers**
- 3.30 - 5pm **Chosta** for years 7 - 13.

Tuesday 26th March

- 8am **Holy Week Devotions** at the Catholic Church
- 10 - 11am **Walking Football** at the Rec
- 2pm **Tuesday Fellowship** with communion
Speaker: Colin Povey

Wednesday 27th March

- 8am **Holy Week Devotions** at the Catholic Church
- 10am - 12 noon **Renew 1066** in the Manna House
- 12noon - 2pm **Warm Welcome** in the Manna House
- 6.30pm **BTFC Runners** meet at the Chapel
- 7 - 8pm **Prayer Meeting** in the Prayer Room

Thursday 28th March - Maundy Thursday

- 8am **Holy Week Devotions** at St Mary's
- 7.30pm **Service of Communion** in the Chapel

Friday 29th March - Good Friday

- 8.30am **Worship Gathering** at the Chapel

Sunday 31st March - Easter Sunday

- 10am **Morning Gathering** at the Chapel
- 6 - 7.30pm **Evening gathering** at the Chapel