

Battle Baptist Church

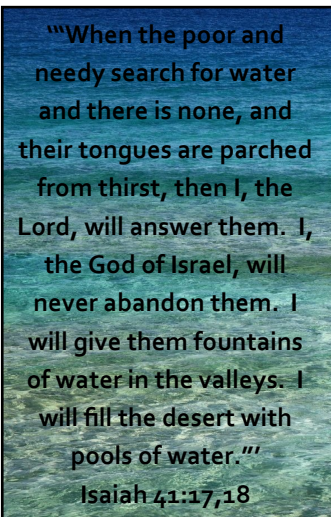
Being Transformed Together



21st April 2024



“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come buy and eat! Come buy wine and milk without money and without cost... Give ear and come to me; hear me that your soul may live.”
Isaiah 55:1,3a



Lines

They are all around us. Some are more obvious than others. There are those hidden in plain sight - perhaps we've stopped noticing they are there at all. We might say some are more serious and rightly elevated and enforced above others: they keep us safe. Whereas many are more light-hearted even fun, therefore we really need not worry about them at all. Others, although they once looked faint and temporary, have long since become hard and seemingly immovable - written in to the laws of space and time.

Lines are all around us.

I've been asking myself whether this is how God intended life to be? An in/out, us/them mindset? Is this the model we see in Jesus? Is this what it means to seek to follow him with all of my life? Is this what obedience to God is all about?

Speaking at our Good Friday service I quoted John Mark Comer, who in his book *Practising the Way* says this: “When you sin, don't hide it from God. Hold it before God, with no excuses, no blame shifting, no denial, just utter vulnerability, and let God love you as you are. And then let God love you into who you have the potential to become.”

It was the phrase in the middle that I felt led to emphasise, 'Let God love you as you are'. Do we rush on too easily and too quickly into the celebration of Easter Sunday? Perhaps there is a time and a place - and potentially a need - for us to pause and to simply be, resting in God's love. Letting him love us.

The final sentence of the quote from Comer needs to be noticed and reflected on, though.

The whole idea of, 'allowing God to love us into who we have the potential to become'.

In part I think this has something to do with lines. With welcome. With hospitality. With grace. With a willingness to ask questions. With the help of Holy Spirit to seek God's heart and guidance afresh and anew, that we might become people who live lives that speak Jesus in the way we act and interact with those we encounter and come across through all we do.

This Sunday we begin a new series, exploring the radical hospitality of Jesus we see in the Bible, what it looks like and considering what it means for our lives today. I'm aware that the whole idea of even raising this topic and beginning to ask some of these questions may be unsettling for you. Where might this lead? Is there a hidden agenda here? What is actually being suggested?

There is that warning I'm sure we've all come across or heard at some point of 'stranger danger'. Sadly, it is a warning that does have merit in the world today and not just for little children. I do wonder though, has it seeped into our subconscious and therefore into the life of the church in a way that perhaps isn't always so helpful? Has it become something of a starting point? There is a tension here, I see that, in some ways a massive one. But one I would much rather, with God's help, pray into, ask questions over and grapple with, that we might continue to grow and be transformed as his people, here, now and for all he has ahead.

Here's to the permanent markers and erasers...

Your fellow disciple,

Ed

PRAYER POINTERS

The Middle East

'One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up... "Learn a lesson from this... don't you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night?"'
Luke 18:1-8
NLT

Claverham CU

Please continue to pray for Evie, Izzie and their friend Sam as they lead the CU at CCC. Pray in particular that it will be possible to identify students to take on the leadership of the CU once the Year 11s leave to take their GCSEs.

For our fellowship

Please pray for those in our fellowship who are ill, for those recovering from surgery, and for those with long term health issues. For resilience, peace and good sleep. For effective medical treatments and recovery.

NEWSLETTER

21st April 2024

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: (01424) 774997.

Church maintenance issues:
zionpremisesteam@gmail.com

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Les Terrell: A service of thanksgiving for Les' life will be held at Eastbourne Crematorium on Monday 13th May at 1pm. The service will be livestreamed. If you would be interested in watching the livestream here at BBC, please get in touch with the office.

Afterwards, you are all invited to join Les' family for refreshments, which will be served at The Powdermills Hotel, TN33 OSP.

World Mission Group: our next meeting will take place on Sunday 28th April, after the morning gathering. Why not bring along a picnic lunch and join us?

Police and Crime Commissioner Elections: BBC will be used as a polling station for these elections which will be held on Thursday 2nd May. There will be no After School Club on this date.

Community Sports Sunday, 12th May: BBC and BTFC are hosting this event at the Rec. View a full programme [here](#). There's something for everyone! Then at our 6pm gathering, we will celebrate the football club's 20th birthday. There will not be a morning gathering on Sunday 12th May.

Pentecost: Our friends from the other churches in Battle are invited to join us here for a united service to mark Pentecost on Sunday 19th May, beginning at 4pm. There will not be an evening gathering at BBC on this day.

Social Event, Saturday 18th May: Meet at the Three Legs Brewery, Beeching Road, Bexhill TN39 3LJ at 12.30pm for a couple of beers and some food. The cheeseboard and the charcuterie come highly recommended! All are welcome. Please let Rob H know if you plan to attend.

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

Coming up...

Our next day of prayer and fasting will take place on Thursday 16th May. There will be guided sessions at 7am, noon and 8pm.

Holiday at Home

Would you be interested in attending a 'Holiday at Home' event later this year? Please let the office know if so.

Church Meeting

The next church meeting will be held on Thursday 23rd May from 7.30pm in the chapel.

What's on this week...

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

Sunday 21st April

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

Monday 22nd April

- 9 - 11am **Caterpillar Toddlers**
- 3.30 - 5pm **Chosta** for years 7 - 13.

Tuesday 23rd April

- 10 - 11am **Walking Football** at the Rec
- 2pm **Tuesday Fellowship** with communion
Speaker: Rhod Jones

Wednesday 24th April

- 10am - 12 noon **Renew 1066** in the Manna House
- 6.30pm **BTFC Runners** meet at the Chapel
- 7 - 8pm **Prayer Meeting** in the Prayer Room

Thursday 25th April

- 3.15 - 5pm **After School Club** for KS2 children

Friday 26th April

- 7.30 - 8.15am **Early Morning Prayers** in the Youth Room
- 10am - 12 noon **Coffee Club** in the Manna House
- 6.30pm - 8.30pm **BBC Youth Event** with Beulah Baptist Youth

Sunday 28th April

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