

EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Lombard Street, Eynsham OX29 4HT

SUNDAY 10th JANUARY 2021

**COMMUNION SERVICE ON ZOOM
at 10.30 a.m.**

Leader: Revd Dr Zoltan Biro
Christ is as Christ does Jesus gets baptised
Mark 1: 4-11

Meeting ID: 753 5934 1499

Password: 024518

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/75359341499?pwd=U1IYRzk3N1ppeT-JDcJVPWG5kNFQwZz09>

You can also join on the phone by calling one of the following numbers and keying in the Meeting ID followed by # key and then the Password also followed by # key

0203 481 5240, 0203 481 5237, 0203 051 2874, 0131 460 1196

OTHER SERVICES ON SUNDAY

8.10 a.m. BBC Radio 4

12.25 p.m. BBC 1 Songs of Praise

Monday to Friday

9.45 a.m. BBC Radio 4 LW Service

DAILY HOPE - 0800 804 8044

Music, prayers and reflections + full worship services from the Church of England: phone line available 24 hours.

SCBA REFLECTIONS

The Beginning of the Good News' (full version) by Colin Norris

<https://youtu.be/iuYBhW2REzQ>

'Turning a New Page' by Joth Hunt -

<https://youtu.be/pRQvCL6Gno8>

'PAUSE & PRAY'

8.00 a.m. prompt each day on Zoom
(incl. Sundays)

*Sessions stand alone so you can join for just one, or for all of them. **Zoom login is the same each day.***

Meeting ID: 815 4844 7151

Passcode: 952712

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81548447151?pwd=SExsdi-tUT0kxNHVRU1JKdWFO NTdwdz09>

Thank you to all who have joined Pause and Pray. Thirteen people have logged on during the 9 days thus far. We read a set Psalm, have a minute or two reflection, say some prepared and unprepared prayers together and finish by 8.15 a.m. No-one has to say anything, you can just be there if you want, and in your dressing gowns! So all are welcome to join. If you would like to read one of the Psalms prepared please let Gill Crippen know.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION **ABOUT SERVICES**

The Deacons have decided to stop all live services for at least 6 weeks: services will continue on Zoom.

CHURCH MEETING

17th JANUARY at 11.20 a.m.

will now be on Zoom - usual login

As many members as possible are encouraged to attend the meeting.

Apologies for errors in the Birthday list last week: the correct list should show **George Bowerman (4th)** and **Sue Law (26th)**.

Please note new church email:
eynsham.baptists@gmail.com

EBC DEACONS MEETING

10.30 a.m. on Tuesdays. Please pray for Zoltan and our Deacons.

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Thursday 14th January at 11 a.m.
We shall be looking at Christ's Message to the Church (Revelation 1-3).

Meeting ID: 821 2089 8795

Passcode: 994274

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82120898795?pwd=ejN4RU8rSkpDRFlxYlJQbEhHUytlZz09>

EYNESHAM COMMUNITY LARDER

Anyone who is finding it difficult to buy the food they need can request help, either a regular or a one-off food parcel. Call Bob Thiele on 07738 063083 or email eynshamhelp@gmail.com and ask for further information. **Donation points** in Co-op, Spar and The Market Garden.

ASYLUM WELCOME

Donations still needed. Please speak to Marcus Thompson on 01865 881808.

CONGRATULATIONS to Zoltan on being awarded his Doctorate of Philosophy in Sociology of Religion on 1st January 2021. He writes:

Dear Eynsham Baptist Church family,

I would like to thank you for all the support, encouragement, and prayers you provided during my studies. Without you being behind me I do not think I would have been able to finish this long and arduous journey. Thank you for your understanding over the years and I hope I will be able to use what I learned for your benefit.

With gratitude,

Zoltan

The God of the beginnings

(Genesis 1:1-5)

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was wild and waste, foaming chaos covered the deep and the Spirit of God danced over the face of the deep. (vs. 1&2)

Undoubtedly, the past year can be characterised by chaos, uncertainty, darkness, and frustration, which seems it will continue throughout the coming months despite the hope of vaccination. This is because vaccines will not protect anyone if they are in the vials and inoculating the majority of the population is a mammoth task, it will require several months of systematic and tireless effort.

I feel this situation resonates well with the creation story, where we find God working on bringing order into chaos. He does this not by flicking his finger, but by implementing a plan. In these first verses there is no “*tah-dah*” moment, but a continued satisfaction and joy in the progress made. That is why when a group of students were tasked to translate the first two verses of Genesis instead of “*the spirit moved across the face of the deep*” they opted for “*the Spirit of God, danced over the face of the deep*”. After all creation was an exciting and joyful party full of cosmic sound and motion of what could be. Which reminds me of James Weldon Johnson’s poem, *The Creation*:

*And God stepped out on space,
And he looked around and said:
I’m lonely - I’ll make me a world.*

Genesis 1 is a dance between divine desire and creative possibilities. Here, unlike in other parts of the Bible, God does not create from nothing, but rather from an untamed something that is wild and waste or formless and void (*tohu*

va-vohu, in Hebrew). This “stuff” with which God has to work, is threatening, but God knows that to do with it. The image we see is wild and foaming chaos, but God is there and sees possibilities in the chaos. Hence, creation is relational and very much intentional. But God does more than just defeating the chaos monster, he actually bustled the world into being, not by destruction, but by creation. Johnson puts it in this way:

*Then God smiled,
And the light broke,
And the darkness rolled up on
one side,
And the light stood shining on
the other,
And God said: That’s good!*

The waters roar and need to be ordered, but rather than needing to destroy a sea monster, God created Leviathan so that the great creature can play in the waters (Psalm 104:26). God did not dismiss the luminous darkness, because God dwells in the thick darkness as well as the light (Exodus 20:22), and night and day are the same to God. We prefer the light, and God accommodates us. But whether light or dark, God is among us.

Our reading reminded us that in God and through God light and darkness can coexist. In the coming months we are allowed to feel both uncertainty and frustration as well as hope and fulfilment, but more importantly we have to remember that God is with us no matter how we feel.

Prayer: *Our Lord, as creatures of the earth, we inhale your grace, rejoicing in life abundant. We use our breath, our being to raise this hymn of praise: Hallelujah to the sun’s hot passion embracing the ground’s great shoulders! Hallelujahs for generations of life*

tumbling one after another, life creeping, swimming, flying, running, below, above, upon, within. Fill us, enliven us to be ambassadors of this life divine, breathing out your song in harmony. Amen

Zoltan

PRAYER

We send our love and sympathy to Audrey Giles whose brother Charles passed away over the Christmas period. We hold her and the rest of the family in our thoughts and prayers.

We are sad to report the death of Joyce Taylor on 4th January 2021. Having attended a Congregational church for most of her life, Joyce had enjoyed being a regular worshipper at EBC for the last few years, participating in services, study groups and other church activities. We send our sympathy and prayers to Lin and her brother David and to the rest of the family at this sad time.

Dear Father God,
You promise to hear us when we come to you in prayer, thank you! We so need Your listening ear at this time – and your help, Lord. Winter always brings challenges, but this winter is exceptional as the effects of the pandemic continue. When we are afraid, or lonely, or grieving, or in despair, help us to trust You and to know that You are with us in the middle of it all, sustaining us. You are not social-distancing, You are very, very close, full of love and compassion

Daphne Kitching

We give thanks that Zoltan's father is making good progress following his heart surgery and we send our prayers and good wishes for a full recovery.

Shared by Angie

For those who asked for a Saviour
We lead them to the Stable
To the one who was born
To bring Freedom
Forgiveness
Liberty.

For those who seek assurance
We lead them to the light
To the one who opens eyes
To understanding
God's word
Truth.

To those who seek forgiveness
We lead them to a Grace
Beyond comprehension
To wholeness
Healing
Peace.

Amen.

EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH
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Contributions to linmiller25@gmail.com Tel.
881780 (subject to space and editorial discretion).

