



19th May 2019

Chris Hunt writes...

Psalm 1:1-3

Blessed is the one
who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
or sit in the company of mockers,
but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
and who meditates on his law day and night.
That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither
whatever they do prospers.

We just spent a weekend with our son while the girls were away with friends, and on Saturday morning I felt God tell me to get up early because he had something special for the three of us. I didn't want to, as I get up early most mornings for work and I was looking forward to a lie-in, but I couldn't shake the feeling there was a gift waiting for me, so I went downstairs and found Autumn and Ephram already up. Ephram was reading his devotional for the day and Autumn was about to join him for her morning reading. I sat with them and we all read together for a while. Then we had this wonderful moment of prayer together where we were able to bless our eldest child and speak words of encouragement into his life. It was amazing, we were all so connected by the Holy Spirit, and I could see my sons' heart to know more of the things of God!

All day I was walking around struck by how proud I am of this amazing boy who can speak his mind and walks with integrity in his friendships. Who tells all his friends about Jesus because he can't bear the thought that any of them might perish! And this is where Psalm 1 comes in. I was reflecting on fruit that is yielded in the right season and how we so often miss the blessing of it. We have had a hard road parenting our first child. He is passionate and strong willed; (his name means double portion after all!) and it has been 10 years of teaching and loving and correction...and more correction... and we are starting to see the most amazing fruit! Like a tree planted by streams of living water I want to yield fruit in season and then not miss out on enjoying it either. Is life hard? Yes. Is there always something to focus on that could bring me down? Yes. But what fruit is there in this season of my life; in your life, that is ready for harvest and ready to be enjoyed? Gratefulness is such a powerful tool in our spiritual walk. We won't miss the blessings if we catch them with a Grateful heart.

If not, we will look back and see how great it was in hindsight and what a shame to always be seeing the blessings after the fruit has passed! So, I'll leave you with a quote from the great Charles Spurgeon:

'It is not how much we have, but how much we enjoy, that makes happiness.' Today I choose to enjoy what I have, and I invite you to do the same.

Many blessings, Chris

Notices

CAP MONEY COURSE

Starting on Monday 10th June 10-12noon here at Emmanuel. A 3 week course to help you manage your money better. To book visit, capmoneycourse.org

CLIMATE JUSTICE WORKSHOPS

Join us at ECB in Meeting Room 1 on 3 June and 1 July at 7.45pm to discuss and plan ways to reduce the worldwide effect of global warming.

MENS CURRY EVENING

Tuesday 21st May 7.45pm at Shakil's. Please contact Colin Arter if you wish to book.

PENTECOST QUIET DAY

Saturday 25th May here at Emmanuel. Coffee at 9.45am. Morning session 10-12 & afternoon session 1.15pm-4.00pm. Tea and coffee will be provided but please bring your own lunch.

ENCOUNTER EVENING

Meeting again at GagleBrook School on Saturday 25th May 7-9pm. Please search: [Encounter @ Gagle Brook primary](#) for more details on Facebook.

Gill Gifford Conference— The Anointing

Saturday 15th June 10.30am-3.30pm (Doors open at 9.30am) here at Emmanuel. All welcome. For more details contact carolhill@hotmail.co.uk

ROTAS: If you need to check rotas please log on to Church Builder. Contact the church office if you need help doing this.

ECB DIARY

SUN 19th MAY	10.30am	Informal Worship Holy Spirit—Bringing Conviction and Conversion Leader: Al Bowen Preacher: Roger Winson
	7.00pm	Evening service (café open at 6.30pm) Colossians –Continue in Christ Leader: Denise Crook Preacher: Nigel Crook
TUES 21st MAY	9.00am	Prayers
	7.45pm	Men’s Curry Evening
WED 22nd MAY	10.30am	Oasis Small Group
THURS 23rd MAY	7.30pm	Board Games Evening
FRI 24th MAY	9.30am	Cherish Group
	7.00pm	Prayers
	7.30pm	Contemplative Compline
SAT 25th MAY	9.45am	Pentecost Quiet Day
	7.00pm	Encounter Evening
SUN 26th MAY	1 0.30am	Communion Service Holy Spirit Week 2, In Renewal and Revival Leader: Carol Hill Preacher: Katie Jenkinson
	7.00pm	Evening service (café open at 6.30pm) Colossians –What about the old ways Leader: Adrian Stone Preacher: April Beckerleg

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All notices to Admin Team by 7pm Wednesday

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