



31st March 2019

Autumn Hunt writes..

What an incredible evening of worship we had this past Sunday night at ECB! Perhaps a bit of an overflow from the night before at Encounter happening there!?

It seemed to me that the Holy Spirit was relaying a message to us that there is an “open heaven” over us when we come before him with humble hearts; hearts that desire His friendship and presence first and foremost, not just what we can get from Him.

The word tells us that He “inhabits our praise” and in the sound of our cries for our heavenly Father to come closer, He seems to make himself vulnerable and I don’t think he can help himself! He shows up and changes the entire atmosphere! It is such a distinct shift to me, between us ‘getting on with it’ as we can tend to do, and when He shows up in the room. One feels elevated, like the lungs have enlarged and a proper breath can be drawn in. A peace manifests over hearts that suddenly calms our flesh, makes all the worries of the moment before fade into the distance. Ha! It’s glorious! Exactly that- *glorious!*

And what a thing to ponder. That we were created to live in that atmosphere, all of the time! I wonder if we could train ourselves to really *hold on* to that feeling of lightheartedness and joy; of timelessness and total clarity of just how small and loved we are. Could we hold on to it long enough to pull it back into our ‘in-between’ moment during the week? Could we pull it into the moments of doing dishes, changing nappies even? What if we pulled it into moments of conflict and realised that actually, there is nothing to fear in the Presence of our King? How much would that change our lives?

There we all were, in a moment of heaven meeting earth, together as his children, not knowing what he was going to do or say next. What an adventure! Ha! Sometimes we get it right and wait, sometimes we rush to the next thing because we have schedules to keep, but either way, we still get *a moment* to bask in the wonderful presence of the Trinity’s love for us, to glimpse and behold a taste of heaven on earth. Just a moment perhaps, but will we not hold on to it all week...?!

As we move towards the celebration of Easter Sunday I have to wonder if it was these very moments, that “bi-locationality” that Jesus walked perfectly in, (living in heaven and earth simultaneously) that empowered him to carry the cross up that hill, that allowed us to crucify him?

That empowering is the very grace of God. As we worshipped on Sunday night, the Lord was telling us there is MORE GRACE for us than we walk in. There is ENOUGH GRACE because His Grace is Sufficient for everything you are going through; in; or have to accomplish! Those are not my words, those are God’s words and promise to us!

2 Corinthians 12:9 "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

Chris and I were reflecting on the sense that the Lord has such a special place in his heart for the ECB community. He has plans for 2019 to refresh and inspire ECB as an influential and impacting place in the town of Bicester, and I believe as we walk in a new level of grace this year, we will see His plans come to pass.

Blessings, Autumn

Notices

Garden Talk

Next meeting -Saturday 27th April 10.30am—12noon. Here at Emmanuel church.

BHOP (Bicester House Of Prayer) overnight prayer meeting Friday 5th April at the Salvation Army Hall. 8pm-8am the next day. Stay as long as you can. All welcome!

Climate Justice Workshops - Mondays 1 April, 6 May, 3 June and 1 July.

Join us to talk about and plan action to reduce the effect of global warming on communities rich and poor, worldwide, first Monday of the month, 7.45pm in Meeting Room 1. See Debbie Winson for more details.

Ladies Pamper 'n' chat

Saturday 13th April 10am-12noon Meeting Room 2

Who let the Blokes Out!

Saturday 13th April 10am-12noon

Men's Curry Night

April 16th 7.45pm at Shakil's in Bicester. For more details contact Colin Arter on 07717875566.

Good Friday Reflections-Stations of the Cross

19th April 2-4pm & 7-9pm here at Emmanuel Church. See Carol Hill for more details.

Easter Celebration and Egg hunt

Saturday 20th April 4-6pm

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 31st March	10.30am	No Service at ECB Hospitality Sunday — Meals in homes
	7.00pm	Evening Service (Café opens at 6.30pm) The Great banquet, Baptisms Leader: Erika Biscoe Preacher: Ian Biscoe
MON 1st April	7.45pm	Climate Justice Workshop
TUES 2nd April	9.00am	Prayers
	7.00pm	Prayers
WED 3rd April	10.30am	Oasis Small Group
FRI 5th April	9.30am	Cherish Group
	7.00pm	Prayers
	7.30pm	Contemplative Compline
SUN 7th April	10.30am	Informal Worship and APCM Jesus Anointed Leader: Dorothy Williams Preacher: Roger Winson
	7.30pm	Evening Service (Café open at 6.30pm) Praise and Worship Night Leader: Rachel Bowen Preacher: Jadon Cuin-Wilson

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All notices to Admin Team by 7pm Wednesday

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