



***JESUS** helped his disciples understand who he was by giving them pictures they could relate to. We are exploring these great '**I AM**' statements of Jesus in our video talks.*

These days, the only thing that seems certain is that things will remain uncertain for some time to come! The government may have given us a "roadmap" as to when things will begin to get "back to normal," but even this is fraught with uncertainty.

Living with such uncertainty can be very hard, especially if you suffer from impatience like me. We want our politicians to tell us when we can start to go on holiday, have a meal at a restaurant or more importantly, when we can start our church services again. But of course, nobody has the definitive answers to these questions. We just don't know!

However, as Christians, even in times of great uncertainty our faith enables us to have confidence. As Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." What follows in chapter 11 is a list of some extraordinary exploits carried out by the men and women of the Old Testament. For these people, their confidence wasn't to be found in themselves or in their abilities, but in their God. They were ordinary people who put their confidence in an extraordinary God. They may have had their uncertainties about the future, but they had certainty in their God.

The apostle Paul also shared their confidence. In Philippians 1:6 he says, "I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns". In all the uncertainties of life, God is at work. Best of all, he's at work in our lives and he's not going to give up.

One of my heroines is a lady called Elisabeth Elliot. After her husband Jim and four of his companions were killed on a riverbank in the jungle of Ecuador, she returned to the very people who had taken his life and began sharing the Good News of Jesus with them. Things were very uncertain as she walked into the jungle, but she also had that same confidence in God, believing that Jim hadn't died in vain and God was still at work. After several years of working with these people, Elizabeth was to witness two of her husband's killers baptise the grandchildren of another missionary who had been killed with Jim. As she says in one of her books, "Of one thing I am perfectly sure: God's story never ends with ashes."

God bless.
Peter

Our Sunday Service:

Please join us (online!) for our Sunday Service. Go to Exwick Community Church's Youtube Channel, and find the Service for today. We'll gather at 11 am to 'share' as a family together. You can then sing along to the songs on the video, words below!

VERSE OF THE WEEK:

'I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture.'

John 10:9

ONLINE RESOURCE:

Before this lockdown period, we at ECC had been discussing our '3-5-year plan' and seeking to listen to God about how He was leading us into the future.

It seems those plans have been put on hold; except they haven't! We are being pushed, through the circumstances of the current situation, to do church, and mission, and worship, and fellowship, in new ways.

This situation has also given us time to reflect on what God is saying to us as a church. I've found inspiration from watching the Baptist Union videos about Home Mission churches. ECC was once a Home Mission church, so these stories are very close to our heart.

Can I recommend watching some of these short clips on the BU website:

https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/220852/Home_Mission_Stories.aspx

There's a really special story about the Life Community in Axminster:

https://www.baptist.org.uk/Articles/550117/The_LIFE_Community.aspx

May God inspire us!
Sandy

Good morning to you all,

Trust you all had a good night's rest. I met up with my brother Dave this week, for the first time in over 6 weeks (observing the 2 meter rule). It seemed so strange.

We had a report from a neighbour that someone might be in our mum's house, so we went to check it out (it was all ok).

We discussed getting together later in the week but we were really unsure what is acceptable and what is not, can we have a coffee together or not (or am I overthinking it all).

I was feeling a little confused until I had my daily Bible reading from Acts chapter 2:

'For David says concerning Him, "I foresaw the Lord always before my face. For He is at my right hand, that I may not be shaken. Therefore my heart rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope."

I realised I was fixing my eyes on what the politicians are saying and not what the word of God says.

He stands beside us so we can stand firm. He fills our hearts with joy, and gives us a peace and hope the world cannot take away.

God bless John & Dorcas



Sunday Worship Songs

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GOD IMMORTAL INVISIBLE

Clothed in light inaccessible
God most Holy God only wise
God most blessed most glorious
God Almighty victorious
Present with us yet veiled from sight

Holy is the Lord
Is the Lord holy

*CHORUS: And our praise will rise to the Lord of life
Come and worship Him in His majesty
Awesome God most high*

Giving life to both great and small
He's the source and the life of all
Needing nothing to make Him whole
Man does flourish then fade to nought
Like a breath that is quickly gone
But our God's the eternal One

Holy is the Lord
Is the Lord holy

*CHORUS: And our praise will rise to the Lord of life
Come and worship Him in His majesty
Awesome God most high*

*See His glory shine over all mankind
Come and worship Him in His majesty
Awesome God most high*

God of splendour we see in part
But through Christ He has come to us
Wondrous glory has won our hearts

Holy is the Lord
Is the Lord holy

L Fellingham|M Busbee|N Fellingham© 2008 Thankyou Music

I COME BEFORE YOU TODAY

And there's just one thing that I want to say
Thank You Lord thank You Lord
For all You've given to me
For all the blessings that I cannot see
Thank You Lord thank You Lord

With a grateful heart with a song of praise
With an outstretched arm I will bless Your name

*Chorus: Thank You Lord
I just want to thank You Lord
Thank You Lord I just want to thank You Lord
(Thank You Lord)*

For all You've done in my life
You took my darkness and gave me Your light
Thank You Lord thank You Lord
You took my sin and my shame
You took my sickness and healed all my pain
Thank You Lord thank You Lord

Don Moen | Paul Baloche © 2004 Integrity's Hosanna! Music

ENTER IN THROUGH THE GATES

Enter in here with praise
Come before Him come bring your song
We are His people He is our God

*For the Lord is good and His love endures
His love endures (x2)
Forevermore His faithfulness it has no end
For the Lord is good and His love endures
His love endures*

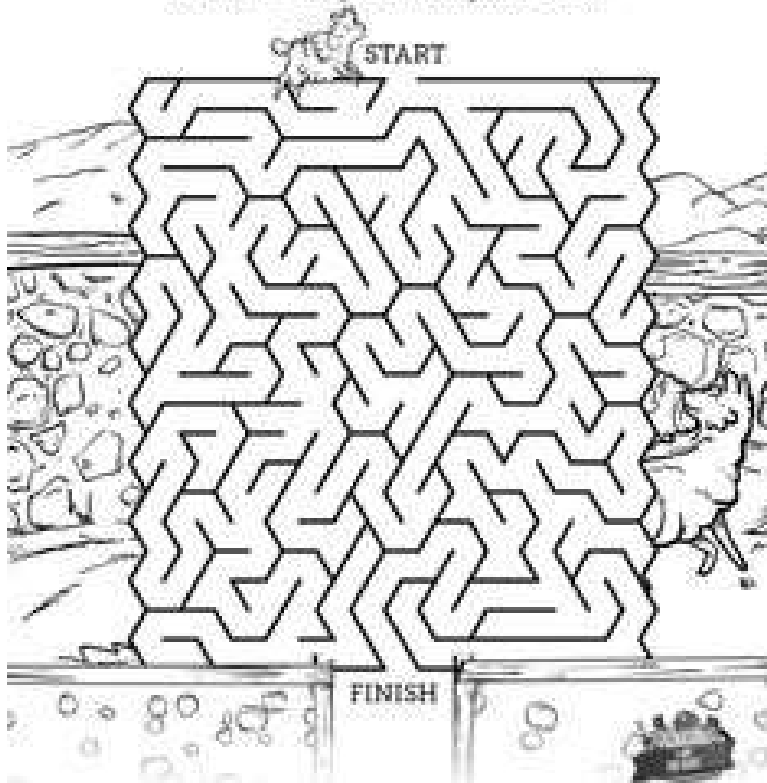
Enter in to His courts
Enter in with grateful hearts
Come before Him come bring your song
We are His people He is our God

Raise Your voice
Shout for joy all the earth
We sing a new song now
We sing a new song now

Chris Tomlin | Jason Ingram © 2014 Open Hands Music

"I AM" THE GATE

Guide the sheep to the Shepherd's Gate.



PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR:

Hilary and Jimmy, John, Ena and Bunty, John and Jessie, Andrew S., Margaret and John C., Bill and Carol, Ann, Roger and Jonathan, Marion and the Snell family who are grieving the loss of Brian, people on their own in Exwick who are struggling with this lockdown. Alex Clapp is recovering well, and wants to thank everyone for their prayers.



Friday Friendship online!

Join in on Fridays at 10am for 40 minutes of chat over a cuppa (make your own!). You will need to download the Zoom app onto your smart phone/tablet or computer. Go to Google apps or direct to www.zoom.us. Enter the Meeting ID: 738 8875 6789 and Password: 8FrDCW. We hope to see you there!