

*What good is it to me,
If Mary gave birth to the Son of God,
And I do not also give birth to him
In my time and culture?*

Meister Eckhart (1260-1327)

'Although the scribes could explain where the Messiah should be born, they remained quite unperturbed in Jerusalem. They did not accompany the Wise Men to seek him. Similarly, we may know the whole of Christianity yet make no movement. The power that moved heaven and earth leaves us completely unmoved.

What a difference! The Wise Men only had a rumour to go by, but it moved them to make that long journey. The scribes were much better informed. They sat and studied the scriptures like so many dons, but it did not make them move. Who had the more truth?

The Wise Men who followed a rumour, or the scribes who remained sitting with all their knowledge? What a vexation it must have been for the Wise Men, that the scribes who gave them the news that they wanted remained quiet in Jerusalem! We are being mocked, they might have thought. For indeed what an atrocious self-contradiction that the scribes should have the knowledge yet remain still. This is as bad as if a person knows all about Christ and his teachings, and his own life expresses the opposite. We are tempted to suppose that such a person wishes to fool us, unless we admit that he is only fooling himself.'

Soren Kierkegaard (1813-55)

7/52 @ RBC

10 January 2021

A prayer for 2021 by **Kang-San Tan, General Director, BMS**

Heavenly Father,

We thank you for your grace and protection for our families and friends during the past year as we faced this pandemic.

Grant us hope that, even in crisis, your Holy Spirit will bring flourishing to new communities.

Make us, and those BMS World Mission partners with around the world, humble and holy, that we may all be the fragrance of Christ, wherever you placed us, in our own time and culture.

That through such humility and holiness,

All creation will be transformed, renewed and made holy.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel: may your Kingdom come,

And your will be done on earth as it is in heaven,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord who makes all things new.

Amen.

Prayers for Ryde continue every Monday for 15 minutes at 7pm.

Join in using the link at **[Pray for Ryde – Continuing in Prayer](#)**

Contacts:

Church office: closed at present

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All Deacons available by ☎ if needed.

Please note! Items for 7/52 should be given to **Sally** by **midnight THURSDAY** on 641305 or email: **ian.pratt5@btopenworld.com**



Check out our website at **www.rydebaptist.xyz** for general updates, sermon notes and suggestions for reading and study.

What's On

Worship with Premier Radio

10 am Sunday Worship at home

6 pm Sunday Live with Pam Rhodes, followed by Prayer of Hope with Churches Together at **7 pm**

BBC1 Songs of Praise **12.25 pm**



The first live prayer event of 2021 for Baptists Together is on **Wednesday 13 January at 7pm.**



Find out how one student fundraised for O M at <https://www.uk.om.org/blog/running-the-race-at-home-and-abroad-inst>

A prayer exercise for the new year from Tear Fund at <https://www.tearfund.org/stories/2021/01/a-prayer-reboot-for-new-year>

Some Scripture to encourage you this week at <https://www.premierpraise.com/Discover/10-hope-filled-Bible-verses-to-get-you-through-the-lockdown>

A good explanation of why many church buildings are staying closed just now, and what some are doing instead, at <https://www.premierchristianity.com/Blog/The-Gov-says-church-buildings-can-open.-But-we-ve-decided-to-close/>

'What are we to make of events in America? Certainly, we should recoil in horror: at a President inciting insurrection; at racism (compare the response to the Black Lives Matter protests); and at blasphemy (banner displaying an American flag and the words 'Jesus is my Saviour' and 'Trump is my President'). We should also remember it's easy for us to pass judgement at a distance—we cannot be complacent about the state of our own nation or humanity in general.

In a democracy, we get the leaders we deserve. If we're concerned about the quality of our politics and political leaders, we should get involved and change them. If we oppose racism, we should redouble efforts to put into practice the theology we profess, that all humans are created equally in the image of God. If we object to Christianity being co-opted by one group, we should not co-opt it into another. We should be rigorous in critiquing, theologically, our own assumptions and commitments, and invite others to do the same.

The kingdom of God is less about getting us into heaven, than getting heaven into us and the world. We must not only express horror at wrong, but address those wrongs and become the change we seek.

Paul Woolley, CEO, London Institute of Contemporary Christianity

<https://www.premierchristianity.com/Blog/The-fruits-of-Trump-s-presidency-are-violence-and-hate.-Christians-must-pray-like-never-before>

<https://premierchristian.news/en/news/article/biden-team-hosts-prayer-call-in-response-to-us-capitol-siege>

<https://www.premierchristianity.com/Blog/The-storming-of-the-US-Capitol-by-Christians-was-a-sickening-sight>

Thank you for your continued financial support of the work of the Church. If you are able to give by standing order, PLEASE do so!

**RBC Barclays current account number 20731102
sort code 20—60— 55**

*If you usually give by cash or cheque, contact **Jim** on **810991** to arrange delivery or collection*

We are currently running at a deficit as follows:

- £15.875.68. This is due to the loss of letting fees for the GSC and the continuing need to pay utility bills and repay loans.