

ABBAY INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST CHURCH, READING

WORSHIP SERVICE WITH COMMUNION

10.30 AM 6TH OCTOBER 2024

Simon Bird leading & Jill Bird preaching

www.abbeybaptistchurch.org.uk.

Find us on Facebook @ Abbey Baptist Church, Reading



Theme: The Power of the Kingdom of God.

Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see that the kingdom of God has come with power." Mark 9:1

Call to worship: *from Psalm 136:1-6*

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

His love endures forever.

Give thanks to the God of gods.

His love endures forever.

Give thanks to the Lord of lords.

His love endures forever.

To him who alone does great wonders,

His love endures forever.

Who by his understanding made the heavens,

His love endures forever.

Who spread out the earth upon the waters,

His love endures forever.

Hymn MP 378:

Jesus shall take the highest honour,

Jesus shall take the highest praise.

Let all earth join heaven in exalting

The Name which is above all other names.

Let's bow the knee in humble adoration,

For at His name every knee must bow.

Let every tongue confess He is Christ, God's only Son;

Sovereign Lord, we give You glory now.

For all honour and blessing and power

Belongs to You, belongs to You.

All honour and blessing and power

*Belongs to You, belongs to You,
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God.*

CHRIS BOWATER © 1988 SOVEREIGN LIFESTYLE MUSIC LTD.

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING:

Heavenly Father, yours is the kingdom:

A kingdom of love, justice and peace.

Lord Jesus Christ, yours is the power:

The power to heal and forgive us.

Holy Spirit, yours is the glory:

The glory to renew and recreate us.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit we praise and worship you and give you thanks for all you are and all you do for us.

Lord, you call us to follow you.

In love and humility we bow down before you and say, 'Lord, where you lead we will follow.' Amen.

PRAYER FOR INSIGHT SEE PAUL'S PRAYER FOR THE EPHESIANS (1:18-19)

Open our eyes to know, the hope to which he has called us.

Open our eyes to know, how rich are the wonderful blessings he promises his people.

Open our eyes to know, how great is his power at work in us who believe.

The Lord's Prayer: *You are invited to pray in your own heart language*

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours

now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Family Time: Power

(There will be an offering taken during the following song, and after the song the children will leave us for their own groups)

Song MP 151

For I'm Building A People Of Power

And I'm Making A People Of Praise

That Will Move Through This Land By My Spirit

And Will Glorify My Precious Name

Build Your Church, Lord Make Us Strong, Lord

Join Our Hearts, Lord, Through Your Son

Make Us One, Lord In Your Body

In The Kingdom Of Your Son

DAVID RICHARDS © 1977 THANKYOU MUSIC, ADMINISTERED BY KINGSWAYSONGS.COM

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

BIBLE READING 1: Mark 8:27-9:4

BIBLE READING 2: Ephesians 1:15-21

SONG

Come set Your rule and reign In our hearts again
Increase in us we pray, unveil why we're made
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope, like wildfire in our very souls
Holy Spirit, come invade us now
We are Your Church and we need Your power In us

We seek Your kingdom first, We hunger and we thirst
Refuse to waste our lives ,For You're our joy and prize
To see the captive hearts released, The hurt, the sick, the poor at peace
We lay down our lives for Heaven's cause
We are Your church and we pray revive This earth

*Chorus Build Your kingdom here Let the darkness fear
Show Your mighty hand, Heal our streets and land
Set Your church on fire Win this nation back
Change the atmosphere, Build Your kingdom here We pray*

Unleash Your kingdom's power, Reaching the near and far
No force of hell can stop Your beauty changing hearts
You made us for much more than this
Awake the kingdom seed in us, Fill us with the strength and love of Christ
We are Your church and we are the hope on earth

Chorus

REND COLLECTIVE ©2012 THANKYOU MUSIC, ADMINISTERED BY KINGSWAYSONGS.COM

SERMON: The Power of the Kingdom

What do you think of when you hear the word **power**? **Tell your neighbour!**

A superhero superman? An electric bike? A Ronaldo goal?

Or what about power failure from all these storms or the fall of a dictator or media star?

Do you remember the children's talk? The melting of the ice cube and charging a mobile phone.

Today we are looking at this statement, 'You will see the kingdom of God come with power.'

So three big questions:

1. **Is our God a powerful God ???**

Was he behind the big bang? Were the moon and stars the work of his fingers?

Does he uphold all things by the word of his power as it says in Hebrews 1:3

2. **Was that same power in Jesus?**

He did such amazing miracles that even the disciples were terrified when they saw his power, such as the big catch of fish and the stilling of the storm.

3. **Can that same power be in us his children?** To bring in his Kingdom of power, and if so, how?

So to recap, 'Where are we in our journey through Mark's gospel?'

Why was it written? Mark 1:1 says it is **the good news about Jesus Christ the Son of God.** He was called Jesus, the name of an ordinary man, a man just like us. He was also the Christ, the long expected, anointed one who had come to change the world. But he was also the Son of God, God himself come down to us. Mark was written that we might understand and believe.

We have been in the early chapters, all up in the north in Galilee. Jesus has been slowly showing and telling folk who he is: teaching with authority, doing many miracles, healings, freeing from the demonic, and able to silence and shame the religious leaders in their stubbornness.

But then comes the moment (8:27–29) He is with his friends and asks 2 questions:

Who do men say that I am? The answer was, some John the Baptist, some Elijah. In other words some say you are just a prophet or a political reformer or even a miracle worker – a superhero. It's the same today. Who do men now say Jesus is? Just a story, just a good man, just a swear word

Jesus then asked the second question. BUT what about you? Who do you say that I am?

Peter replies, 'You are the Christ, the Messiah, the anointed one, the Son of the living God.' He got it!!

BUT then amazingly, as we read in our reading, Jesus announces what is coming next . He has to go to Jerusalem to be hated and killed. The end of the glory days up north and the journey south to his death. The rest of Mark is helping us understand this **upside down Kingdom.** God's power comes through humility and suffering. This was true for Jesus, God himself, but also his disciples would need to follow the same path, deny themselves, lay down their lives and follow him. Taking up your cross daily is a one way journey, you are walking towards your death, dying to your own desires and wants, and putting your whole self at God's disposal.

Then this statement follows in Mark 9:1. **You will see the kingdom of God come with power.** You can't get resurrection life and power without dying first. AND interesting is what happens next for three of the disciples, Peter, James and John. They went up a mountain and Jesus was changed into his heavenly state – his clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone could bleach them!! (9:2-3). They were looking at POWER and GLORY.

But let's come down to earth! Jesus is now on his way to Jerusalem. His message has changed: many times, he talks about his death and the cost of following him. As we read on in Mark, we travel right through to his death and onto that moment of powerful resurrection.

Let's read again in Ephesians Chapter 1 written by Paul, **God's power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ, when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in heaven far above all rule and authority, power and dominion and every title that can be given (v19-21).** AND that same power is for us as Paul prayed, **'That we might know God's incomparably great power for us who believe – the same power that raised Jesus from death'**

In Acts 1 after Jesus rose again, he was with the disciples for 40 days and it says he talked to them about the kingdom of God and then gave them the promise in v8, **You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be my witnesses to the ends of the earth.**

Read through Acts and you find the exciting stories of what the disciples did after they were filled with that power: bold words, healings, deliverances and miracles. Stephen in Acts 6:8 was described as a man full of God's grace and power and did great wonders and miraculous signs.

Has it gone on ever since almost to the ends of the earth?

So what about us? Do we believe in the power of the kingdom of God today? That same power in us? Let's look at it in two ways

1. Of first importance is the power to give us **new birth**. We all belonged to the kingdom of darkness until we came to faith and were brought into God's kingdom. Jesus' death and resurrection has broken the power of Satan over our lives. There is still a battle but we can have victory by his power. We can know the power of the Spirit changing our lives to be more and more like Jesus. Remember the ice blocks melting in the family talk. This comes by the same path as Jesus took his disciples – dying to self, taking Jesus as your LORD and following him with complete devotion.

The gospel is the power of God for salvation for everyone who believes (Romans 1:16)
For God didn't give us a spirit of fear, but of power, love and self-discipline (2 Timothy 1:7)

2. But then we remember in Mark, Jesus sent out the disciples to do the works of power just as he had shown them – teaching, healing, deliverance and miracles. Can we believe for God similarly letting the power of his Kingdom flow through us? Plug in your mobile phone!

Anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these because I am going to the Father (John 14:12).

So our **challenges** as we move to communion.

It's an upside down Kingdom. The way to have power is the same as it was for Jesus – taking up your cross, dying to self. God's power is made perfect in weakness. Tell Jesus you are willing. Then there are folk here today who are in physical and emotional pain. During communion can we believe for the power of God to come amongst us and bring healing and restoration. Let's pray.

Song MP 50

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy one is here;
Come bow before him now in reverence and fear:
In Him no sin is found - we stand on Holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy one is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;
He burns with Holy fire, with splendour He is crowned:
How awesome is the sight - our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place:
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister His grace -
No work too hard for Him. In faith receive from Him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

DAVID J EVANS ©1986 THANKYOU MUSIC, ADMINISTERED BY KINGSWAYSONGS.COM

COMMUNION

WORDS OF INVITATION:

Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. Matthew 11:28 (The Message)

Here is the table of the Lord,
We are gathered to his supper, a foretaste of God's eternal kingdom.
Come and eat in his Kingdom. Come and drink in his kingdom.
Come and be filled with the very presence of your Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

INSTITUTION:

'The Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread
and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said,
"This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."
In the same way after supper he took the cup saying,
"This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."
For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup you proclaim the Lord's death until
he comes. *(1 Corinthians 11:23-26)*
"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live
for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." (1 Peter 2:24)

DECLARATION:

Jesus, you are the bread of life. Whoever comes to you will never hunger, and whoever believes in you will never thirst... Whoever eats of this bread will live forever, and the bread that you give for the life of the world is your flesh. *(from John 6:35, 51)*

This is the body of Christ, broken for you.
(take a piece of bread and eat as it is served to you)

DECLARATION:

Jesus, you are the fountain of life. This cup is the new covenant in your blood poured out for us for the forgiveness of sins... We look forward to the day when we will drink it anew with you in the kingdom of our Father. *(from Revelation 21:6; Matthew 26:29)*

This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.
(we drink together once all have been served)

"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

In sharing bread and wine, you have strengthened us, Lord Jesus. May we go from here knowing the joy, hope and power of living for you in your Kingdom each and every day. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: Angel Yu

Dear Lord Jesus,

In a world filled with chaos, we come before You with heavy hearts. Across the globe, wars, natural disasters, and acts of persecution continue to bring suffering and despair. We think of the ongoing conflict between Israel and Lebanon, the tragic war between Russia and Ukraine, and the serious impact of the typhoon that flooded North Carolina, resulting in loss of life and many missing. In Thailand, we grieve the tragic school bus fire that claimed the lives of 25 students. Lord, our hearts ache for those who face persecution in repressive governments, enduring unimaginable hardships.

We cry out for Your help, knowing that You are the God who can do all things. Please extend Your mighty hands to save those who are oppressed by war, affected by natural disasters, or caught in political strife. Heal their wounds in body, mind, and spirit. Comfort those who have lost loved ones and are struggling to find hope in the darkness.

Lord Jesus, we ask for Your grace to surround these victims. Send your angels to guard and care for them, providing protection and comfort. May Your light shine brightly in their lives, guiding them away from despair and into the refuge of Your love.

Lord Jesus, thank You for blessing us with a spiritual home. We ask for Your guidance and support for our church's ministry, that we may lead more people to know and believe in You. Please raise up our ministries and equip leaders who are eager to serve together in Your name.

We also pray for passionate evangelists among us, those who will carry the Gospel to the corners of our town that have not yet heard it.

May Your love inspire us to reach out and impact our community, particularly in the areas of Reading that are on Your heart. Amen.

Lord Jesus, we pray for our church family, knowing we all have various needs. Some are grieving the loss of loved ones, while others are battling illness or facing uncertainties regarding citizenship, residence, or employment. You know the burdens that weigh heavily on our hearts—our worries, anxieties, and fears.

Lord Jesus, we ask that You guard our hearts and minds with Your perfect peace. We surrender our problems and burdens to You, trusting in Your power and goodness. In every situation, we find comfort in knowing that You bring us life and peace, allowing us to rest securely in Your embrace.

Thank You for coming to the world to rescue us. Please remind us to prioritize You above all else. Teach us how to protect our hearts and transform us to be more like You. We pray all these things in Your precious name, Jesus. Amen.

He is able to do more than we ask or think according to his power at work in us (Eph 3.20)

HYMN BPW347/MP445

Lord, the light of Your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness shining:
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us; set us free by the truth You now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
Send forth Your word, Lord, and let there be light.*

Lord, I come to Your awesome presence, from the shadows into Your radiance;
By Your blood, I may enter Your brightness; search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me.

As we gaze on Your kingly bright-ness, so our faces display Your likeness;
Ever-changing from glory to glory: mirrored here, may our lives tell Your story.
Shine on me, shine on me.

GRAHAM KENDRICK © 1987 MAKE WAY MUSIC

THE BLESSING: ROMANS 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

THE GRACE:

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.**

Dates for your Diary:

- Harvest service with lunch for all, next Sunday 13th October
- Interactive evening with mission partners, Sunday 13th October, Wycliffe Baptist Church. 5pm VR Mission experience with food. 6pm Interactive Service.
- Walk – Saturday 19th October
- Work day at church and Jim and Julia's house – Saturday 26th October

We will be having another Baptismal Service on Sunday 20th October. If you would like to be baptised, please have a chat with Julia, Simon or Jill.

If you would like to contribute financially to Abbey International Baptist Church electronically, please use the card reader at the back of the church or scan the following QR code below to pay:

QR Code for Offering:

