

Abbey Baptist Church, Reading

WORSHIP SERVICE FOR 10.30 A.M. 4TH MAY 2025

Led by Pauline Mbukwa Preacher: Christopher Mbukwa

www.abbeybaptistchurch.org.uk.

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Theme: Another Counsellor

While he was with his disciples Jesus said, 'I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you for ever'. This is the amazing gift, the Spirit of truth; the one who teaches us; who communicates God's love. This gift is the Spirit of power; the one who creates and renews, empowers and inspires.

A Call to worship:

Come, Holy Spirit, come upon us - **Come around us, come within us.**

Come as Breath - **And breathe new life into us.**

Come as Light - **Come to lead us, come to guide us.**

Come as Fire - **And burn away our sin.**

Come as the wind - **And fill us with your power.**

Come, Holy Spirit. Come upon us.

Hymn MP 241:

Holy Spirit, we welcome You. Holy Spirit, we welcome You!

Move among us with holy fire,

As we lay aside all earthly desires,

Hands reach out and our hearts aspire.

Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, we welcome You!

Holy Spirit, we welcome You. Holy Spirit, we welcome You!

Let the breeze of Your presence blow,

That Your children here might truly know

How to move in the Spirit's flow.

Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, we welcome You!

Holy Spirit, we welcome You. Holy Spirit, we welcome You!

Please accomplish in us today

Some new work of loving grace, we pray -

Unreservedly - have Your way.

Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit, we welcome You!

Family time: The Spirit of God ,is my helper and guide

The Holy Spirit empowers us to do great things, shall we stand and sing this song together-which talks about the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Offering will be taken during the following song and afterwards children go for their classes

Hymn: BP&W 295:

*Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,
gentle as is the dove;
teach us the truth and help us believe,
show us the Saviour's love.*

You spoke to us, long, long ago,
Gave us the written word;
We read it still, needing its truth,
Through it God's voice is heard.

Without your help we fail our Lord,
we cannot live his way;
we need your power, we need your strength,
following Christ each day.

Last week we learnt that the Holy Spirit empowers each of us to go and make disciples, to share the good news with those around us and to the ends of the earth. Many times we do not yield to the Holy Spirit voice, so let us ask God for forgiveness:

Lord God forgive me when instead of being welcoming I greet the Holy Spirit with a cautious and suspicious heart. Instead of opening my heart to the Spirit's movement I close my mind to anything which challenges my long-held views. Instead of gladly receiving the Spirit's gift, I block my soul against change.

**Living God, forgive me and help me to open my life up now to your Holy Spirit's life-giving breath, so that I may live more truly as one of your people.
Lord have mercy, in the name of Christ.
Amen.**

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.**

Hymn

All over the world the Spirit is moving,

All over the world as the prophet said it would be;
All over the world there's a mighty revelation
Of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

All over His church God's Spirit is moving,
All over His church as the prophet said it would be;
All over His church there's a mighty revelation
Of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Right here in this place the Spirit is moving,
Right here in this place as the prophet said it would be;
Right here in this place there's a mighty revelation
Of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

ROY TURNER © 1984 KINGSWAY'S THANKYOU MUSIC.

First Bible Reading: John 14:14-18; John 7:37-39

First Bible Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Sermon: ANOTHER COUNSELLOR

Last week, we learnt that the Holy Spirit gives us power to share the good news of Jesus and make disciples, to those around us and even to the ends of the earth. Today, we continue to look at the Holy Spirit by specifically discussing the topic “**another counsellor.**” In the passage we read in John 14 Jesus tells his disciples that He will not abandon them, but will instead send the Holy Spirit to be with them and guide them. This promise of the Holy Spirit's presence and guidance is a powerful message of comfort and reassurance, emphasising that even after Jesus' departure, believers will not be left as orphans, but will have the power of the Holy Spirit to be with them and guide them.

We will answer three questions: What does it mean that the Holy Spirit is another counsellor? What is the significance of the Holy Spirit living in us? And how can we be sure that the Holy Spirit is living and active in us?

1. What does it mean that the Holy Spirit is another counsellor?

After telling of His upcoming departure, Jesus comforted His disciples by saying ‘ I will ask the Father, and he will give you **another counsellor** to help you and be with you forever”

The word in Greek used here for the Holy Spirit (paraclete) literally means ‘one called to our side.’ It is translated in different English versions as ‘helper, comforter, advocate, or counsellor.’ This is the third person of the Trinity, God the Holy Spirit, who has been “called to our side.” Every believer has this personal being residing within them. The context is that from John chapter 14 to 17, Jesus was preparing to leave the disciples, whom He had walked with and taught during His time on earth. He promised them that His physical presence would be replaced by the Holy Spirit, who would come upon them and dwell within them. The Holy Spirit would be “**another Comforter or Counsellor or helper or advocate**”—**another of the same kind.** This means that Jesus was the counsellor, and the Holy Spirit is coming to play the same role He was doing.

In the Old Testament, the Spirit of God would descend upon individuals but then depart. It says in Judges that the Spirit of the Lord came down on Samson in power and he tore a lion apart with his bare hands, but left him. However, Jesus teaches that from then on it would be different; the Holy Spirit would come on all believers and stay with them.

So as believers, we have the Holy Spirit always with us – God himself within us, a total and wonderful replacement for the living human presence of Jesus. To have the Holy Spirit is to have God Himself within us. As we read, we are led to truth by the Spirit. He reminds us of what Jesus taught, so we can rely on His teachings when life gets tough. Having the Holy Spirit as our Paraclete, our Advocate, our Counsellor, our Comforter, and our Encourager is indeed a privilege!

2. What is the significance of the Holy Spirit indwelling us?

The Holy Spirit's indwelling is a concept central to Christianity, signifying the presence and power of God within a believer, enabling them to live a life of faith and obedience. This indwelling is central to salvation, empowering believers with spiritual understanding, guidance, and strength.

I believe that the Holy Spirit speaks to everybody, but they don't become aware of His presence until they accept Christ as Saviour. I remember when I was a child, long before I became a believer, whenever I did something wrong, I was still hearing a little voice inside my head telling me that what I had done was wrong. Wasn't that the voice of the Spirit? With time and consistent walking with the Lord, the voice grows, and our sensitivity to hear Him grows.

We see from scriptures that the indwelling Spirit is the single most important mark distinguishing believers from non-believers. As Paul writes in Romans 8: 9, "if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ." The same apostle says, that the person without the Spirit does not understand the things that come from God (1 Corinthians 2:14).

3. How can we ensure that the Holy Spirit is living and active in us?

Loving and Obeying Jesus: Scripture tells us that God freely gives the Holy Spirit "to those who hear and obey Him" (Acts 5:32). Jesus says, 'If you love me, keep my commands.' (John 14:15). This love translates into obedience, which is the foundation for the Holy Spirit's presence.

Living a Life of Faith: Faith is the bridge between our hearts and God's grace. We rely on God's promises and trust in His character, allowing the Holy Spirit to work within us to empower us to overcome challenges and grow holiness. As **John 7:37-39** illustrates, the nurturing of the Holy Spirit works through coming to Jesus, believing in Him, and letting His Spirit flow through us as living water. This requires one to depend on and relate to Jesus while also being open to His Spirit's workings. Jesus mentions thirst as a condition to come to him and drink water which is the Holy Spirit. The challenge is that most of us do not have thirst for God and His work. One way we demonstrate thirst for God is through prayer, scripture study, and fellowship with other believers.

Practising Humility and Service: Humility opens us to God's work in our lives, and service allows the Holy Spirit to empower us to fulfil our purpose and share God's love with others. According to Isaiah 57:15, God has two places where he lives, 'I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit.'

Honour God with our bodies: The apostle Paul encouraged the Christians in Corinth to avoid sexual immorality by saying, "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit...Therefore, honour God with your bodies." (1 Corinthians 6:19–20). Our bodies are indeed made by God the Father, redeemed by God the Son, and inhabited by God the Holy Spirit. Our bodies are thus the very temple of God's Holy Spirit.

Prayer

Ignite our lives with the passion for you Oh Holy Spirit, that we may live our lives knowing that you will always be with us, helping us in our inadequacy, and our weakness. We bring before you all that we are, all that we have been, all that we can be, knowing that by your Spirit we can live as you would have us live and do what you would have us do. In Jesus' name. Amen

Song

Wonderful, merciful Savior Precious Redeemer and Friend
Who would have thought that a Lamb
Could rescue the souls of men Oh, You rescue the souls of men

Counselor, Comforter, Keeper Spirit we long to embrace
You offer hope when our hearts have
Hopelessly lost our way Oh, we've hopelessly lost the way

*You are the One that we praise
You are the One we adore
You give the healing and grace
Our hearts always hunger for Oh, our hearts always hunger for*

Almighty, infinite Father Faithfully loving Your own
Here in our weakness You find us
Falling before Your throne Oh, we're falling before Your throne

*You are the One that we praise
You are the One we adore
You give the healing and grace
Our hearts always hunger for Oh, our hearts always hunger for x2*

Songwriters: Dawn Rodgers, Eric Wyse.

Communion Words of Invitation:

Are you searching for meaning? The table is laid. Are you yearning for acceptance? The invitation is for all. Come now, eat, drink, and find nourishment for your souls, food to satisfy now and always.

Jesus said, 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, will have streams of living water flowing from within.' By this he meant the Spirit' (John 7:37-39).

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.

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

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

Post Communion Prayer:

May the broken Christ, the poured-out Christ, strengthen us in body, enrich us in mind and nurture us in spirit, until we are all filled with the fulness of God.

Amen.

Time of Prayer Ernest and Berna

Dear LORD, our hearts are heavy with the suffering of innocent people in Sudan, Gaza, Ukraine and Russia. The people in Sudan are fighting for survival every day with the crisis of famine. We lift them in prayer, asking for an end to these problems. We stand with those who are enduring pain, loss, and fear. We pray for the strength of the people, for peace to enter the hearts of those who hold power and for a future where no one lives in fear of the next day. We also stand in faith, for we know that hope remains even in the darkest times. **AMEN**

Dear Heavenly Father, we pray for the country of **Iran**. We pray for all those who have come to faith in you. Please protect them and walk very closely with them. Guide them and give them great wisdom whatever the circumstances. May there be a change in the way this country is governed. We pray for all Iranians who have left the country to find safety, especially our Iranian brothers and sisters here in Abbey. We pray for those who have recently moved and those looking for housing. May your peace go before them, guiding each step. Fill them with strength during this transition. Let your presence be their constant comfort and their faith remain strong in new places. Help them find a new church. **AMEN**

Dear LORD, we pray for those who are doing so much more while we have no minister. May you strengthen their spirits and remind them that their work for You is never in vain. Pray for our church as we move forward together and prepare for Zoltan to come in August. We pray in the name of Jesus,
AMEN

Hymn:445

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

Chorus 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 the 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 brightness
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

Songwriters: Graham Kendrick.

The Blessing:

May you go out empowered knowing that Holy Spirit dwells within you, and that He is always there to guide us every day. May God strengthen you to serve him and bless you with joy, hope and peace, today and every day. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and 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.

This weeks' notice

Connect group Coffee: After service
Church Meeting Sunday 11th May 2025

This coming week:

Wednesday 7 th	10.30	Renew Wellbeing
	12.15	Bible Study
	2.00	Start 2
Thursday 8 th	10.30	Toddlers
	10.30	Bible Study (moved back from Tuesday)
Friday 9 th	5.00	Table Tennis Club
	7.00	Iranians Meal and Bible Study