

ALTON BAPTIST CHURCH

eService

Sunday 8th November 2020

Back to the Basics

We believe in

The ministry of The Holy Spirit in our lives

And

START THIS AT 10:58

Remembrance Sunday

First, we must on this day Remember those who gave their lives so we might have peace.

As we are at home, you may wish to join with your neighbours, in the suggested two minutes silence on your doorstep. If not, then please use the video link below.

Even if you do stand on your doorstep, you may also wish to view the video; it has a montage of pictures.

Jo and I bought a British Legion wreath to remember Jo's two uncles who gave their lives in WWII – one a bomber pilot whose plane was shot down over Germany, and the other a stoker on a cargo ship of the Merchant Navy. Our son had the pilot's Rhodesian Squadron emblem printed for the wreath. He has been organising the poppy collection in Wellingborough and will lay the wreath at the town's memorial. He will be one of only few permitted to be present. They have a very large concrete apron in front of the memorial with plenty of room for many.

I have chosen a YouTube video that is 121 seconds long. The moment you press play the two minutes silence starts.

TWO MINUTES SILENCE VIDEO

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pgny6BofHwM>

Welcome

..... to you all to another of our eServices, and at the time of writing we are banned from meeting in church by order of HM Government; despite our MP Damian Hinds raising the matter during the debate in The House on Wednesday that we should be allowed to meet. So Robin's email had an effect; albeit others may also have written to him; but if no one wrote, then why should Damian mention the matter?

We hope you will be greatly blessed as I have during the preparation in the way our Lord leads and guides us all. So once more we are confined to our house. Probably the only time in our history that a leader has ordered such draconian measures. I was late this Thursday afternoon in Winchester, and whilst walking past King Alfred's statue, I wondered what he would have made of our lockdown; more like home detention. Surely Boris is our only leader to do this?! Just in case you are wondering why I was abroad at this time, I was there for a medical reason to have a dental 3D scan carried out by a 21st Century £110k machine at a local dentist. I now have my own copy of the scan on a disc.

So, wherever you are you can know of His love and presence; as neither COVID-19 nor Boris cannot separate us from the love of our God.

To-day's topic under the banner of

“Back to the Basics”

we look at

“We believe in

The ministry of The Holy Spirit in our lives

Opening Prayer

O Lord we ask that you give us open minds and hearts as we come to this time of worship with you. That you will strengthen our believe in You as

The ministry of The Holy Spirit in our lives –

engages us in encouraging, guiding and strengthening us on our walk with you that we will have that faith to believe in

The ministry of The Holy Spirit in our lives

1st hymn 720

[At this point I must break off here to thank Graham for he has for those of us preparing services an Excel Spreadsheet with many hymns listed with their YouTube link. He has made my job this week very easy; all the hymns are on the list.]

We need to believe in our God.

We believe in God the Father

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D82vhTvGJko>

Readings for today

You will receive POWER when the Holy Spirit comes on you

Acts 1

³ After his (Jesus) suffering, he appeared to them over a period of forty days and ... ⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For ...in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' ⁸ **But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'**

Life through the Spirit

Romans 8

¹ Therefore, ⁹ You, however, are NOT in the realm of the flesh but are in the **realm of the Spirit**, if indeed the **Spirit of God** lives in you. And if anyone does not have the **Spirit of Christ**, they do not belong to Christ. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the **Spirit** gives life because of righteousness.

¹¹ **And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of His Spirit who lives in you.**

1 John 4

¹³ **This is how we know that we live in HIM and He in us: He has given us of his Spirit.**

2nd hymn

I believe in God our Father

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-aSmurqrzA>

Intercessory Prayers

- + Marjorie, Jo's youngest sister who I reported the last time I wrote a Service had died: well she was recently remembered in a Memorial Service Jo & I were able to attend with all her family. A strange service with us sitting in our "bubbles", and to comply with the law we had to leave the church immediately after the end. Please pray for her family (two of whom will be reading this) that they will be enabled to move on from her untimely demise.**
- + Our previous minister Chris and his wife Ruth are both seriously ill. He is very weak and undergoing tests, and she has suffered a massive stroke within the past few days whilst driving Chris along the Blackwater Valley Road!!! We give thanks that our Lord allowed them to pullover safely. (As some of you know Chris and I were at school together and Ruth's father married us and her brother was our organist.) We pray that Our Lord in knowing their wishes - His will be done.**
- + That Boris and our government will allow us to meet together on Sundays. We have been greatly blessed by the turnout since we started back and the sense of fellowship with Our Lord and each other.**
- + Guidance for our civic leaders as they navigate the best path during this COVID-19 pandemic.**
- + Guidance for our spiritual leaders to have boldness of action that COVID-19 will not overwhelm their thoughts and actions.**
- + Safety for those of our 'emergency services' / NHS *et al* that they are kept safe from COVID-19 and physical attacks by people.**
- + A missionary and family, known to some of us, who are now back on station and to keep them safe and fruitful in their work. We have heard they have settled in well.**
- + I am sure some other national / world / local matter will turn up between now and Sunday.**

Our third hymn is a reminder of Jesus as Our Redeemer.

3rd hymn 198

Gracious Spirit, Holy Ghost

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vv5aRYxufnc>

Let us look at His word.

- ◆ **Holy Spirit the third part of the Holy Trinity - The Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We have writings about Jesus' life on earth and can see in our mind's eye him going about his ministry. God is mentioned all over the bible and so again probably not any difficulty here. But the Holy Spirit is often problematic for many in understanding and conceiving of how and what The Holy Spirit is? There is no indication we can sense the Holy Spirit's presence with our senses. Or can we?**
- ◆ **Let me give you what our electrical engineering lecturer said when we started our Higher National Diploma course that *"You may think from your school and early college studies you know what electricity is; but you do not as it is a lot more complicated. You will have to accept what I am going to tell you in faith, and that by experiments you will prove what I have told you."* He may well have been a Christian.**
- ◆ **So it is with the Holy Spirit we have to accept the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives by faith and be prepared to know by action that the Holy Spirit is our guide and comforter. One further quote this time by me to two police officers who were involved in the investigation of an electrical engineer who was electrocuted whilst carrying out high voltage testing. *"I regret that you may not understand much of our discussions as it will not be possible to explain in a few minutes what those of us present had to spend years at college learning about electrical power engineering."* They left after lunch.**
- ◆ **It is very easy for people to dismiss the Holy Spirit, but like anything we do in life, we need to study and practice to make perfect. We need to read the bible to learn about the Holy Spirit and then seek to engage with the Holy Spirit guiding us. As of course we need to do for all other aspects of teaching in the bible.**

- ◆ **So what might the Holy Spirit be like. Let me give you two examples of invisible forces that many of us encounter daily. (1) We have recently bought new LED light bulbs each with a computer on board. Using my smartphone I can control the light to show any colour and any brightness; all controlled through the Wi-Fi system. (2) We can receive TV shows wirelessly onto the laptop, such as the catch-up services. We can then cast the PC picture wirelessly onto the TV; then sit back in our armchairs and enjoy the show. Again using the Wi-Fi for transmitting the signals.**
- ◆ **We accept that an invisible something, radio waves, travelling through the air carries the signals. We may not sense them with our “classical five senses”, their presence is manifest in the pictures and sound we see and hear. So why not the Holy Spirit being all around us without our so called five senses being aware. All of these are a phenomenon; why not also the Holy Spirit!? Indeed I could as a physicist keep rolling out many more forces of nature that are present all around us that we have no sense to detect. The earth’s magnetic field and gravity for example. So why not the Holy Spirit to be of similar form!**
- ◆ **But as we are filled with the Spirit then surely we are aware of the Holy Spirit’s presence around guiding and powering us.**
- ◆ **I have mentioned in our prayers that Chris and Ruth were able to bring the car to a halt safely. Was this a case of “Angels unawares”, that I talked about a few services ago? Surely, the Holy Spirit guiding them? You can scoff, but we often read of such medical incidents resulting in crashes and injury. Not so in this case. Jo & I drove back the Friday before last in the evening in the pouring rain as we had been in the afternoon for the memorial service and Stuart had a dentist appointment at 8.30 am on the Saturday. There was no margin of error in heavy traffic on a Friday evening and we are grateful our guardian angel kept us safe. Was this the Holy Spirit’s work powering and enabling a safe drive?**
- ◆ **Jo and I are reading a Barnabas Fund book on martyrs, one a day, as our daily reading. (It includes biblical text and others words plus a narrative of the martyrdom.) What is obvious is that they have gone to their death willingly and have been sustained in that conviction that the Holy Spirit having given them that strength / power. Some of the stories go on to tell of those left behind, including their persecutors, coming to faith by the Holy Spirit’s power.**

Our readings show that

1. You will receive POWER when the Holy Spirit comes on you

Acts 1

³ After his (Jesus) suffering, he appeared to them over a period of forty days and ... ⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For ...in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'

2. We are in the realm of the spirit then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness.

3. ¹¹ And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of His Spirit who lives in you.

Life through the Spirit

Romans 8

¹Therefore, ⁹ You, however, are NOT in the realm of the flesh but are in the **realm of the Spirit, if indeed the **Spirit of God** lives in you. And if anyone does not have the **Spirit of Christ**, they do not belong to Christ. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the **Spirit** gives life because of righteousness.**

¹¹ And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of His Spirit who lives in you.

John 4

4. ¹³ This is how we know that we live in Him and He in us: He has given us of his Spirit.

4th Hymn 617

If we do not stand up for Jesus He will not stand up for us.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AhE9VhSxvh4>

Closing Prayer

Revelation 4:11

**¹¹ 'You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honour and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they were created
and have their being.'**