

Today's Stewards: AM Beth Rolfe, PM Diana Stonell.

Monday: Toddlers 10 am-12 noon.

Sunday: **Prayer meeting** before the evening service. 5.30pm.

After Hours - 7.45-9pm. Please speak to Iain or Krista for more details.

Monday: **Abbey Toddlers.** At Abbey. 10am.

Thursday: **Kickstart.** 6pm. Preston Road Community centre.

Friday: **Abbey kids, 11up, Reboot.**

Saturday: **Cleaning** - John and Bethan Lipp; Iain Baker; Geoff and Beth Rolfe.

Geneva Bible Notes - for 2018/19. Subscriptions for the next 12 months are now due. The cost will be £19 for the year. New readers are welcome. If you wish to renew or to become a new subscriber, please let me have your subscription by Sunday 27th May. Thank you. Philip Grist.

There are various **Summer Camps** running this year for children and youth - for more information see Paul & Sue or Lawrence & Felicity.

Welcome to Abbey Baptist Church!

Our morning service is led by Simon Hutton and Simon will be preaching from **Matthew 3:13-17 - Foundations for a Kingdom life.**

There is a staffed crèche for children aged 0-2 in the chapel lounge.

Venturers for children aged 3-10 takes place during the service. There is a staffed **crèche** for children aged 0-2.

Ignite! For years 6-9, head out today for the duration of the sermon to look at the Bible together.

Our evening service is led by Simon and Simon will be preaching from **Psalms 2 - Celebrating God's rule.**

Tea and Coffee are served after each service.

There is a loop system installed and printed copies of the songs are available.

- **Connect Groups** meet regularly during in local homes. All are welcome to join a group, please see Simon for more details.
- **The Church BBQ is next Sunday** after the morning service (20th May). It next door in the grounds of the Abbey buildings. All are welcome.
- **Fun in the Park** Saturday 2nd June, helpers will be needed. Please see Peter.
- You are all encouraged to join us for the **Church Family Weekend** (31/8 - 2/9). Booking forms are available at the back and include further information. If you can't make the whole weekend please considering coming for the Saturday. *Please book now!*

"This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." (v17)



Introduction

Context / setting the scene

- A pivotal episode, recorded in all four gospels
- Jesus revealed as God's Son the Messiah: Servant King (v17; Ps 2v7; Isa 42v1)

Jesus' baptism demonstrates **three foundations for a Kingdom life**:

The righteousness of God (v13-15)

- Righteousness and justice: appropriate conduct in relationships
- Faithfulness and obedience (v15)
 - Our righteousness *in Christ* (Romans 3v22; 2 Peter 1v1)
- Righteousness is demonstrated in repentance (v14, 21v32)

The Spirit of God (v16)

- Jesus' visible empowerment by the Spirit (Isa 42v1)
- We are baptised with the Spirit (3v11; Acts 2v38; 1 Cor 12v13)
 - The Spirit empowers us to live a Kingdom life (Ezek 36v25-27)

The love of God (v17)

- A display of the Trinity – Father, Son, Spirit
 - We share in the love and fellowship of the Trinity
- God's love poured into our hearts (Romans 5v5)
- The Kingdom life is a life of love – for God and for neighbour (22v36-40)
- The Kingdom life is pleasing to God

Summary: Jesus calls us to be part of God's kingdom and therefore to live according to its principles. The Kingdom life is based on God's own righteousness, his own Spirit and his own love, all of which he gladly gives to those who seek him. They are the platform for a Christ-like, God-pleasing life which is both faithful and fruitful.

Serve the LORD with fear and celebrate his rule with trembling. v11



Introduction – a reminder of Psalms as wisdom: the right way to live

- The way of righteousness (Ps1) is live in true relationship with God *as King* (Ps2)
- The life that is truly blessed (1v1, 2v12) joyfully embraces God's loving rule
- Psalm 2 is to be understood and applied at **three levels**:

Context – what is this Psalm's message in its original setting?

- King David and heirs: God's 'son' and 'anointed' (89v20-29; 2 Samuel 7v14)
- Nations rebelling against the rule of David and God (v1-3; 2 Samuel 10)
- God's perspective on rebellion (v4-6), and promise to David (v7-9)
- An invitation to embrace wisdom and blessing by serving God (v10-12)

Christ – how is this Psalm fulfilled in Jesus?

- Jesus is God's son, his anointed/Messiah King (baptism - Matthew 3v13-17)
- Resurrected, vindicated, enthroned (Acts 13v33; Romans 1v3-4; Hebrews 1v3-5)
- The 'nations' and the 'ends of the earth' are his inheritance (and ours!)
- He will remove opposition to his gracious rule (Revelation 2v27, 12v5, 19v5)

Contemporary – what are the implications of this Psalm's message for us today?

- Underlying rejection of God is rebellion against his right to rule (v1-3)
- Be wary of spiritual intimidation by the prevailing attitudes in the world
- Find liberty in service and appropriate respect for God/Jesus (v11)
- 'Celebrate his rule' (v11) – worship and proclamation
- The simple choice reiterated: rebellion or refuge (v12) – saving faith *in Jesus*

Questions for further consideration:

1. *To what extent is rebellion intended as such? Is it mitigated at all by ignorance?*
2. *Why is it vital to remember God's grace as you read this Psalm?*
3. *In reality, how do our lives demonstrate the blessing of service/obedience?*
4. *How will you apply Psalm 1v2 to this message in your personal meditations?*