

The Promised Helper

SERMON FROM REV. ADAM

Life story of an orphan: Vulnerable

- James was 11 years old when he lost both parents to AIDS. Lives with an uncle who is not so loving and caring. Unloved and uncared for. Mistreated. Stripped of his dignity. Dropped out of school, Works harder, not called by name but- "Hey you!". Lives in misery. Sometimes life can be difficult to live as an orphan.

Background to the Promise:

- Imagine the situation (being an orphan): Have you ever had such an experience? Or have known someone who has been through this?

- As church, as individuals we have our struggles too, our battles. Have been treated unfairly. So many reasons to be down hearted.

Where is our hope and who can keep us strong?

Jesus understands the plight of his 11 disciples after his physical departure, hence the Promise. Probably they had begun to show signs of vulnerability.

- Jesus, "My Father will send you the Holy Spirit..."
- A Powerful person like Him will come.
- He is the third person of the Trinity.
- He is God in the Spirit. He comes into our situation.

Help us to do what?

Advocate= Paraclete (Greek) - One who is called to be alongside us, beside us.

He comes into our situations. He will not leave us alone like orphans.

- To meet you at your point of need (Our Comforter). The one we can turn to, to comfort us.
- Help us to live in a world that is opposed to God (Our Helper).
- To remain faithful and obedient to God's laws (Our Counsellor)..

Conclusion

Let us remain in obedience and in the love of Christ's laws.



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION
FROM REV. BARBARA

Part of our response to God's command that we love one another as we love ourselves is to bring our concerns for others to God in prayer – which we do now

Creator God, we pray for the world:
Your world, created by love, full of wonder and beauty;
the world spoilt by selfishness and greed.
Our world where resources are squandered,
where people are governed unjustly,
where wealth is not shared and some lives not valued
where climate change already causes problems for some of the poorest in the world,
where nations are torn apart by conflict,
where many are homeless, hungry and despairing.
Gracious God help us to obey your commands
Fill us with your love

Saviour God, we pray for the world:
Your world, where we may seek and know you;
the world of opportunity and temptation.
We pray for wisdom for governments and those in authority
for the church witnessing to your gospel of saving love
through words and deeds.
We pray for our circuit ministers Adam, Claudia and Deacon Kathy
and for Michaela Youngson our acting superintendent,
for our layworkers Megan and Margaret and our circuit stewards,
for our church communities unable to gather together at this time,
and for all who use their skills and time to prepare and deliver
worship and fellowship in different ways
Gracious God help us to obey your commands
Fill us with your love

Comforter God, we pray for the world;
Your world, filled with your presence;
the world a place of vulnerability and struggle,
We pray for those who are ill, frail or bereaved,
and for those who care and support them.
Those feeling lonely or anxious during this time of isolation and uncertainty
and for those seeking reassurance and guidance for the future.
We pray for Geoffrey Farrar as he and Steve give Johnny a new home and family.
We pray for ourselves, help us to trust you and obey your commands,
and fill us with your love so that we may show your power and presence in our lives day by day.
Amen

Let us now share together in the prayer that Jesus taught us: **Our Father.....**