

26TH APRIL 2020

FERINTOSH PARISH CHURCH

WORSHIP AT HOME



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I'll never forget how strong my grandad was. I remember as a young boy how he used to lift me up to his shoulder with ease and how he held me with one hand. I thought he was the strongest man that lived. But that once strong hand that could hold me up on his shoulder became much weaker many years later. In our text today we see hands that are strong to save and hands that will never become weak. We have confidence today in the nail pierced hands of Christ that keep us kept forevermore.

HYMN

I hear the saviour say
Thy strength indeed is small
Child of weakness watch and pray
Find in me thine all in all

Jesus paid it all
All to him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow

Lord, now indeed I find
Thy power and thine alone
Came and changed the lepers spots
And it melt the heart of stone

Jesus paid it all,
All to him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow

And when before the throne
I stand in him complete
Jesus died my soul to save
My lips shall still repeat

Jesus paid it all
All to him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow

PRAYER

*Almighty God,
In our hour of need we turn again to you.
We put our faith in you, because you have proved
your faithfulness time and again.
We reaffirm our love for you because you have never
let us go.
We thank you that you are not distant from us.
but have drawn near, in your Son, our Saviour, Jesus
Christ.
He has shared our life, tasted our death and
defeated it;
He understands our worries and our fears.
Help us to respond as your children now.*

*We pray for this pandemic spreading across our
world, remembering all who have lost loved ones.
and praying for those seriously ill at this time.
We uphold the National Health Service.
as it responds to this added pressure on its already
overstretched services.
We pray for doctors and nurses and all in the caring
professions, who work to help and support people as
best they can.
We remember those working behind the scenes.
testing samples, confirming results, giving
information to patients.
We uphold others trying to understand this virus
better.
working to create an effective remedy.*

*We pray for our Governments in Westminster and
Holyrood,
as they work with the best medical advice.
to guide us on how we should respond.
and what action we should take.
Strengthen us, by your Spirit, so that:
we may carry on our lives as best as we are able,
looking out for others,
showing love in action,
being faithful in prayer,
and bringing encouragement, hope and peace;
always trusting in you.
our Rock and our Redeemer.
These prayers we bring to you
in Jesus' name.
Amen.*

(Prayer by Rev Colin Sinclair, Moderator – General Assembly)

SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 24: 36 - 43

36 While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

37 They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost.

38 He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds?"

39 Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

40 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet.

41 And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?"

42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish,

43 and he took it and ate it in their presence.

LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.*

SERMON

(Luke 24:39 "Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself!")

Why were the disciples so glad when they saw Christ's hands? It was for the same reason that you and I are glad when we understand the significance of His hands. These are the hands that made the world. These are not the hands of a weakling. These are not the hands of a defeated Saviour. These are the hands of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. These are the hands of our Sovereign Redeemer.


Listen to David in Psalm 95; "In His hand are the deep places of the earth. The strength of the hills is in His hand. The sea is His; He made it. His hands have formed the dry land. O come; let us worship and let us kneel before the Lord our Maker."

We read in John Chapter 10, beginning with verse 24, "The Jews came to Jesus and said to Him; if you be the Christ; tell us plainly and we will believe You."

Jesus said, "I told you and you do not believe. But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep. My sheep hear My voice and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone pluck them out of My hand. My Father who gave them to Me is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. I and My Father are one."

What a wonderful comfort for all who put their trust in Christ. This scripture assures us today that God's people are those who have been put into Christ's hands by the Father.

This is the reason that Paul could say, "Who can lay anything to the charge of God's elect; it is God that justifies? Who can condemn the Lord's people; it is Christ that died? Who can separate us from the love of God? Shall tribulation, distress, famine, persecution, or sword?" No, none of these things can separate us from Christ because believers are kept safe and secure in Christ's hands.



Every believer is given to Christ in the Covenant of Mercy. Every believer is secure in the hands of Christ who is our eternal guarantee. Christ will never let His people go; He will bring His people home to glory. He will not lose even one; that's what Jesus said in John 6:39.

So, when the Lord Jesus stood before his troubled, frightened disciples that night He said; "Look at my hands." These are the hands of a sovereign God who cannot fail. These are the hands of an eternal guarantee that keeps His people safe and saved where we can never be deserted and where we forever know these precious words, "I will never forsake you."

But these wonderful hands are also the hands of our Substitute. This is why the disciples were glad and it is also the reason why we are glad on this Lord's Day. The nail prints are in Christ's hands and we know why they are there. Psalm 22:16 tells us, "They pierced My hands and My feet."

Remember when the disciples told Thomas that the Lord had risen, he said, "I won't believe it except I see the print of the nails in His hands." That was quite a statement from Thomas. But it was also a profound statement because we know like Thomas that the only One who can save us from our sins is the One who has the nail prints in His hands.

Those nail prints in Christ's hands were put there in our place. There is no other redemption except by substitution and there is no other Substitute but Christ. Isaiah 53 speaks of Christ that "He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon Him and by His stripes we are healed."

God's Justice must be satisfied. There is no way that God is going to sneak anyone through the back door into heaven by some other means. There is no way that God is going to overlook our sins and take us to glory with sin unpunished and His Law unsatisfied.

Everything has to be accounted for. Everything has to be above board. God has got to be Just and the Justifier. God has to be a righteous Redeemer. He has to be a glorified grace giver and that is what the scars on Christ's hands mean.

In other words, through those nail pierced hands our sin debt was paid in full. One of my favourite hymns says: "Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe. Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow." Jesus fully and completely, totally, effectually and sufficiently satisfied all our sin debts and there is no charge against us because it is paid in full through the substitutionary atonement of Christ.

So, Christ's hands are the hands of our Substitute, who by His death and by the shedding of His blood has effectually redeemed us. But they are also the hands of our eternal safety. The older version of the hymn 'I will sing the wondrous story' tell us of what it is to be kept securely by these nail scarred hands. The final verse reads, "He will keep me till the river Rolls its water at my feet, Then He'll bear me safely over where my Lord Jesus I shall meet."

The disciples, in their trouble and anxiety, were met by the Lord Jesus Christ who stood before them and comforted them. Elsewhere in the Gospel of John Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled." Surely this is what has happened to these once fearful and worried disciples. Their once troubled hearts have now met their Creator, Redeemer, Substitute, and Saviour who had calmed the stormy waves of their fears and led them to the quiet, still waters of Psalm 23 by the revelation of His hands open toward them where He said, "look at my hands."

May we turn again to the scriptures and look to His hands and see there 'Amazing love! how can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me!'

HYMN

And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Saviour's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

He left His Father's throne above,
So free, so infinite His grace;
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race:
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me.

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness Divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.

PRAYER

Most High God,
The universe with all its myriad creatures is
Yours,
made by Your Word,
upheld by Your power,
governed by Your will.
But You are also the Father of mercies,
the God of all grace,
the bestower of all comfort,
the protector of the saved.
We come to You in Jesus name,
make mention of His righteousness only,
plead His obedience and sufferings
who magnified the law both in its precepts and
penalty, and made it honourable.
May we be justified by His blood,
Saved by His life,
Joined to His Spirit.
Assure us that we shall at last enter Immanuel's
land
Where none is ever sick,
And the sun will always shine.
In Jesus Name we pray, Amen.

(Prayer from 'A collection of puritan prayers')

BENEDICTION

And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all this day and forevermore, Amen.