

MAUNDY THURSDAY

FERINTOSH PARISH CHURCH

WORSHIP AT HOME



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I hope you will be encouraged as we 'Worship at Home' on this Maundy Thursday. We will also have another chance to worship tomorrow (Good Friday) as we look forward to worshipping God again on Easter Sunday.

May the words of Romans 15:13 inspire us and help us as we turn to God in this short act of worship.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

HYMN

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
He, whose word cannot be broken,
Formed thee for His own abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters,
Springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters,
And all fear of want remove:
Who can faint, while such a river
Ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace which, like the Lord, the giver,
Never fails from age to age.

Saviour, if in Zion's city
I, through grace, a member am,
Let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in Thy name:
Fading is the sinner's pleasure,
All his boasted pomp and show;
Solid joys and lasting treasure
None but Zion's children know.

READING JOHN 15: 1 - 11

1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.

2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes[a] so that it will be even more fruitful.

3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.

4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

9 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.

10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love.

11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

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

On this Maundy Thursday our thoughts turn towards the joy of Jesus here in ch15:11. Jesus, who is the same yesterday today and forever, was and is a joyful Saviour. The language used here in this chapter speaks of joy that is quiet, peaceful and yet constant. Jesus said to His disciples, *'I want my joy to be in you so that your joy may be complete.'* This is a remarkable and astonishing statement that Jesus makes especially considering the context of these words here in the upper room. We remember back in ch13 where we read that Jesus was troubled in his spirit because Judas was about to betray Him. We also know that all this takes place on the evening before Jesus would have to suffer and die on the cross at Calvary for the sins of many.

We might think that all of this would be too much for Christ and that the last thing that He could be thinking about is joy? But we are told that Jesus despised the shame of the cross and endured the agonies of the cross **for the joy that was set before him (Hebrews 12:1-2).**

We must ask ourselves what could have been joyful in view of the humiliating horrors of the looming cross? But friends, if only the page you are reading could turn into a mirror and your reflection appear, **then you would see the joy set before Him.** For God's people are the rescued lamb laid across the Good Shepherd's shoulders, we are the lost coin found, the Prodigal Son embraced. You made His heart rejoice then. You make His heart rejoice now. You will make His heart, and He yours, rejoice for all eternity. How wonderful, how marvelous that Jesus endured the agonies of the cross and that His people are the joy that was set before him!

So, on the darkest of nights Jesus spoke to the disciples about joy. He even reminds them saying, ***'You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy.'***

They have not understood very well. They have had three years of being side by side with Jesus. They are about to deny him and run from him and one of them will say that he never even knew Jesus. And yet the Lord Jesus ministers to them wonderfully even before they deny him by telling them that He knows them and that He wants His joy to be in them and their joy to be in Christ.

What was the significance of Christ's words to the disciples on the night before His death on the cross? We remember when the disciples were anxious and scared after Jesus death and burial. We read that when the risen Jesus met them when they gathered together in (John 20) that they were OVERJOYED at seeing the risen Lord. We also remember the very first sermon preached in the New Testament Church; preached by Peter and we hear Peter paraphrase the words from *Psalm 16:11*, *You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with JOY in your presence.* In other words, this joy can only be known by saving faith in Christ alone.

This is what Jesus is teaching His disciples here in John 15, **that true lasting joy cannot be found without Christ.** The hymn writer of our opening hymn penned it so beautifully, **'In Christ there are solid joys and lasting treasures; none but Zion's children know.'**

To behold a joyful Saviour on this Maundy Thursday is to be a joyful Christian; not so much joy dancing, but the deeper joy of joy resting in the finished work of Christ. When we receive Christ as Lord then the bible tells us that we receive His solid joys and lasting treasures on this Maundy Thursday, because NONE BUT ZION'S CHILDREN KNOW!

HYMN

I stand amazed in the presence
Of Jesus the Nazarene.
And wonder how He could love me,
A sinner condemned, unclean.

How marvellous, How wonderful
And my song will ever be
How marvellous, How wonderful
Is my Saviour's love for me.

He took my sins and my sorrows
He made them his very own
He bore the burden to Calvary
He suffered and bled for me.

How marvellous, How wonderful
And my song will ever be
How marvellous, How wonderful
Is my Saviour's love for me.

When with ransomed in glory
His face I at last shall see
Twill be joy through the ages
To sing of His love of me.

How marvellous, How wonderful
And my song will ever be
How marvellous, How wonderful
Is my Saviour's love for me.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we come before you on this Maundy Thursday to remember and give thanks for Your Precious Son Jesus Christ. We thank you for the cross on which the Saviour died, and in response may our richest gain be counted loss and pour contempt on all our pride.

We remember how Christ was thankful on the night before the crucifixion. How He broke bread and gave thanks that His body would be broken for sinners. That He would become our substitute, taking upon Himself our sin and imputing righteousness to His people.

We thank You that Jesus went to the cross not grudgingly but willingly and with THANKSGIVING. He endured the agonies of the cross for the joy that was set before Him. The joy before Christ was God's people who are to Him the rescued lamb laid across the Good Shepherd's shoulders, the lost coin found, the Prodigal Son embraced.

We ask that You would be near to us all as we continue to live in this new normal. Give us strength, grace, hope, patience and encouragement. Again, we give thanks for every effort made by NHS staff and by all the emergency services and key workers. We give thanks for friends, neighbours, family and the church family who are showing great care and compassion to one another. We pray that all who are anxious, lonely, upset, or scared that they would know the great comfort of the Promised Holy Spirit. Be near to our Queen, her family, and her governments. We remember our Prime Minister at this time, and we ask that you would be near to him as he receives treatment in hospital. We pray that you would be near to all who are undergoing treatments in hospital or at home and by Your Grace that we would all know Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound.

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.