

25TH OCTOBER 2020

# FERINTOSH PARISH CHURCH

WORSHIP AT HOME



[www.ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk)

Dr Martyn Lloyd-Jones said, "We are entirely dependent upon the Scriptures. We have no saving truth apart from what we find in the Bible. Nothing can ever be added to Scripture. There can be no further revelation, because revelation only comes through the apostles and prophets, and there are no apostles now, and cannot be by definition. So, we are entirely confined to the scriptures, and we can add nothing to them. Neither must we take anything away from them. We are in no position to pick and choose from them."

## HYMN

We have heard the joyful sound:

Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

Spread the tidings all around:

Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

Bear the news to every land,

Climb the steeps and cross the waves;

Onward!—'tis our Lord's command;

Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

Waft it on the rolling tide,

Jesus saves, Jesus saves;

Tell to sinners far and wide,

Jesus saves, Jesus saves;

Sing, ye islands of the sea,

Echo back, ye ocean caves;

Earth shall keep her jubilee,

Jesus saves, Jesus saves.

Sing above the battle's strife,

Jesus saves, Jesus saves;

By His death and endless life,

Jesus saves, Jesus saves;

Sing it softly thru the gloom,

When the heart for mercy craves,

Sing in triumph o'er the tomb,

Jesus saves, Jesus saves.

## PRAYER

*O Lord, may we find the joy of the Lord even in the midst of our trials. We pray that You would teach us what it means to see beyond our troubles, knowing that You are with us. Even so, Lord God, we see the challenges those around us are facing. We ask You to intervene, to be with those who are in need, to prompt us to participate with You as You care for your people. We pray that we would not be anxious, but that You would give us Your peace. We pray for all the key workers who continue to serve our communities so well. Lord God draw near to us this day and may we know the power of Your Word ministering to our lives, in Jesus Name we pray, Amen*



## 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*

*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.*

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### GENESIS 1: 1-2 (NKJV)

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

### PETER 1: 20 - 25 (NKJV)

20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you

21 who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart,

23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

24 because "All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away,

25 But the word of the Lord endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

# SERMON



There is an anticipation of the gospel and God's work of redemption in the way Genesis 1:2 anticipates God's promise to provide a home and a people. Here we also see anticipated the New Testament emphasis on the Spirit of God and the Word of God in giving salvation life to spiritually fallen souls.

Jesus taught that we must be born again by the Spirit (John 3:3-7), and Peter wrote, "you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God" (1 Pet. 1:23). We might note that Genesis 1:2, picturing the Spirit hovering as a bird, is followed by Genesis 1:3, where God employed His Word to begin ordering the creation: "And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light." As Psalm 33:6 states: "By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host."

It was the Spirit of God, awaiting the mighty Word of God, that hovered over the creation of God. Also, when we remember that the Hebrew word for "Spirit" also means "breath," we are further reminded that it is the Word of God in the power of the Spirit of God that gives life and light to everyone who believes.

Genesis 1:2 illustrates the blessing presented by the hovering presence of the greatest of all spirits, the Holy Spirit of the living God. The verse begins shrouded in all that was lacking: a barren, deserted, and dark mass. Reading the first two statements it seems hard to see how such a condition could lead to something so glorious and great. But what a difference the Spirit makes! By the mighty Spirit of God, the creation would therefore move forward with order, power, blessing, and life.

The same condition prevails in the lives of men and women today. How many people, communities, even entire cultures can be described with the ominous terms of Genesis 1:2 – desolate, empty, and dark. For us, it is the result of judgment because of mankind's fall into sin. Here is a true darkness, cursed by the just wrath of God, with the darkness of evil and sin upon the face of our world.

Perhaps you can connect with this kind of situation. You may feel that all is without hope. But read Genesis 1:2 and remember what a difference the Spirit of God will make! Indeed, here is our true encouragement, that the very Spirit of God who hovered over the primeval dark of the first creation is still at work over this world, ready to act in the cause of the Saviour whose gospel salvation is available to all who will believe. R. Kent Hughes writes: "Just as the Spirit of God fluttered over the dark waters, so he does over the dark hearts of humanity, preparing them for the word of God that will make them into new creations in Christ."

This raises the vital question: how can I be made a new? How can I become a new creation bearing the life and light of God? One answer is through prayer. Jesus said that if sinners are willing to give good things to each other, "how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke. 11:13). Whether you are not yet a believer or have long trusted in God, ask Him for the Spirit and His life-transforming working! But realise that God's Spirit comes into our lives as we receive God's Word in faith. Paul wrote: "our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction" (1 Thess. 1:5).

How, then, can I know that the Spirit of God is working in me with saving power? Here, we may see an analogy in the sequence of events in Genesis 1:2 and 1:3. First, the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the deep. What was He waiting for? He was waiting for the Word of God to shine light into darkness. Indeed, if the Spirit is hovering over your soul, He bears testimony to a message that will make all the difference to you for all eternity, if you will receive it in faith: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).



# HYMN

1. Hail to the Lord's Anointed,  
great David's greater Son!  
Hail in the time appointed,  
his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
to set the captive free;  
to take away transgression,  
and rule in equity.

2. He comes with succour speedy  
to those who suffer wrong;  
to help the poor and needy,  
and bid the weak be strong;  
to give them songs for sighing,  
their darkness turn to light,  
whose souls, condemned and dying,  
are precious in his sight.

3. To him shall prayer unceasing  
and daily vows ascend;  
his kingdom still increasing,  
a kingdom without end.  
The tide of time shall never  
his covenant remove;  
his name shall stand forever;  
that name to us is love.

# PRAYER

Almighty God, In Christ we are loved with an everlasting love, Clothed in eternal righteousness, Our peace flowing like a river, Our joy and triumph unutterable, Our souls lively with the knowledge of salvation, Our sense of justification unclouded. All the treasures of a million worlds could not make us richer, happier, more contented, for Christ's unsearchable riches are ours. One moment of communion with Christ, one view of his grace, is ineffable, inestimable. But O God, we could not long after your presence if we did not know the sweetness of it; And such we could not know except by your Spirit in our hearts, nor love you at all unless you first elect us, call us, adopt us, save us. We give thanks for the covenant of grace, 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.**

# WORSHIP UPDATE

Services will re-start in the Church in Conon Bridge on a trial basis from Sunday 25th October. We would love for you to be there.

There are planed to be two services each Sunday, the first at 11am and the second at 12.15pm. These services will run initially on a trial basis, in case the pandemic or weather cause further problems. Sadly, seating will be limited due to Scottish Government guidelines, so anyone wishing to attend must contact the Session Clerk, Martin McLauchlan, by Friday at 5pm prior to the service to book a place.

To book, either visit the church website, and complete and submit the online booking form at: [ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk/booking](http://ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk/booking) or email the Session Clerk at [SessionClerk@ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:SessionClerk@ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk) and he will send you a link to the Booking Form for you to complete and submit. If you do not have access to the Internet, phone him on 01349 830303 and leave your name and phone number and he will get back to you as soon as he can to take your details.

Martin McLauchlan, Session Clerk

# LIFE AND WORK

If you wish to subscribe to Life and Work magazine next year, please email [sessionclerk@ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:sessionclerk@ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk) or phone Sheena McLauchlan on 01349 830303.