

28TH FEBRUARY 2021

# FERINTOSH PARISH CHURCH

WORSHIP AT HOME



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

*Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me, I  
once was lost, but now am found was blind but now I see  
(John Newton)*

# HYMN

1 O God of Bethel, by whose hand  
thy people still are fed,  
who through this weary pilgrimage  
hast all our fathers led;

2 Our vows, our prayers, we now present  
before thy throne of grace;  
God of our fathers, be the God  
of their succeeding race.

3 Through each perplexing path of life  
our wandering footsteps guide;  
give us each day our daily bread,  
and raiment fit provide.

4 O spread thy covering wings around  
till all our wanderings cease,  
and at our Father's loved abode  
our souls arrive in peace.

## PRAYER

*Father in heaven, we thank you that Christ is the all sufficient Saviour and His righteousness is an all sufficient righteousness. Lord, we ask in Jesus' precious name that you would give us sight to see the light of Christ. Bless your Word, oh Lord, we pray. Keep Your hand upon us all and let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us. We pray that Your grace and mercy and peace will be the abiding portion of all Your people both this day and evermore. We ask in Jesus name, Amen.*

## SCRIPTURE READING

### DANIEL 9: 17 - 23 (NKJV)

17 Now therefore, our God, hear the prayer of Your servant, and his supplications, and for the Lord's sake cause Your face to shine on Your sanctuary, which is desolate.

18 O my God, incline Your ear and hear; open Your eyes and see our desolations, and the city which is called by Your name; for we do not present our supplications before You because of our righteous deeds, but because of Your great mercies.

19 O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name."

20 Now while I was speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God for the holy mountain of my God,

21 yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering.

22 And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand.

23 At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly loved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision:


## 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.*

## SERMON

Here in ch9 we can see that Daniel has been reading Jeremiah and in the 29th chapter of Jeremiah he comes across the prophecy of Jeremiah about the exile which was going to be 70 years and they've already been in exile for 68 years so there are two years to go. According to the word of God, according to the prophecy of Jeremiah written before the exile, Daniel now discovers, or he's been reminded of the fact that in two years' time this exile is going to be over.

What does he do? If God has prophesied it, if God has written it in His word that the exile is going to last for 70 years and 68 years have already passed, what does Daniel do? Does he just sit back and say, "Let me wait now to see the Lord fulfilling His promise"? No, he does not. He engages in earnest prayer that God would fulfil His promise.



Notice that Daniel is reading his Bible and it results in prayer. Sometimes, we find prayer difficult. Sometimes we don't know what to pray for. Well, we can pray the Bible. Read a passage of Scripture and turn it into prayer. Is the passage giving you comfort? Then ask the Lord that you might receive that comfort. Is the passage asking from you something that you should do? Then ask the Lord to give you strength to do it with all of your might. Is the passage asking for a demonstration of faith on your part? Then ask the Lord for strength to demonstrate that faith on your behalf. Is the Bible modelling to you the life of godliness and discipleship? Then pray to the Lord that you might model that life of discipleship and godliness patterned after God's own word.

Notice verse 4 how Daniel begins his prayer, "O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments." His prayer begins with adoration. Before Daniel asks something, he wants to focus on who it is that he's speaking to.

Then in verses 5 through 19, you've got the basic prayer itself and all the way down verse 5 - 12, the beginning of verse 13, 14, it's all about sin and transgression and law breaking. In verses 5 and 6 you've got: we've sinned, done wrong, acted wickedly, rebelled, turned aside from your commandments, not listened to your servants, the prophets, who spoke in your name, and so on. In verses 7 and 8 there are the consequences of sin using this word "shame," which of course, is a garden of Eden word. It's what sin immediately produced in Adam and Eve. They were ashamed. Then in verses 9 and 10 there is only one hope and that is mercy and forgiveness. Then in verses 11, 12, the first half of 13, you've got an exposition of God's anger referenced to God's covenant curses, probably a reference to Deuteronomy 28, that the calamity that has come upon them, the exile in Babylon, the destruction of the city of Jerusalem, the destruction of the temple, is the unspeakable calamity. It's all the result of God exercising His wrath upon their sin, upon their law breaking.

Look at the second half of verse 13, "yet we have not entreated the favour of the LORD our God, turning from our iniquities and gaining insight by your truth." They've gone through 68 years of this calamity and still they haven't repented. Sixty-eight years of calamity and still they're not really sorry for their sins. Sixty-eight years of calamity and still there is no godly grief and sorrow. Staggering, isn't it? They really have no idea what sin is. They are not understanding that sin is the transgression of the law of God and it begins in the hearts and in the minds and in the thoughts and that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God and there is none righteous, no, not one. And here's Daniel saying about Israel, "Even after 68 years, we still haven't got it, we still haven't understood why we need forgiveness, and why we need God's mercy."

Please notice one more thing in the prayer and it occurs on a couple of occasions beginning in verse 15, "now, O Lord our God, who brought your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and have made a name for yourself, as at this day, we have sinned, we have done wickedly." Then, "for your own sake," you see that halfway through verse 17, "and for your own sake," and then you see it again halfway through verse 19, "Delay not, for your own sake." Verse 15, you've made a name for yourself. God had made a name for himself in the deliverance of Israel out of Egypt. These were the people whom God had rescued so what he's doing in his prayer is pleading the name of God. It's as though Daniel is saying, "Look, if you won't do this for any other reason, do it for the sake of your own reputation. You've written a promise. You've given your word. If for no other reason, do it for your own sake, for your own reputation."

God never breaks a promise that He makes. He promises never to leave us nor forsake us, and yet at times we feel as though God has left us, and if we ever feel that way we should go to Him and say, "But you promised never to leave me. Make me know at this time that round about and underneath are the everlasting arms."

One more thing and it's in that little section right at the end, verses 20 through 23, that contains in verse 23 the statement of Gabriel, "you are greatly loved." So, Gabriel comes to Daniel.

He arrived at the time of the evening sacrifice, the daily burnt offering which was around 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Gabriel has come to teach Daniel some things, to give him some instruction about the Seventy Weeks, which we're not going to go into today. But notice this, God hears us from the moment we start praying. That's a beautiful thought, isn't it? We may be in the midst of distress. We may be beside ourselves. It may be a prayer that almost has no rhyme nor reason to it because our emotions are so out of sorts and yet God hears us and begins the process by which our prayers will be answered.

Gabriel is bringing a word from Almighty God to Daniel to say to him, "you are greatly loved." If you're a Christian today, if you love the Lord Jesus, if you're trusting Him, you have been greatly loved from before the foundation of the world. No matter what mess you may be in, you have been greatly loved.

## HYMN

O Love that will not let me go  
I rest my weary soul in Thee  
I give Thee back the life I owe  
That in Thine ocean depths its flow  
May richer, fuller be

O Love, that will not let me go.  
Oh Joy, that seekest me through pain  
I cannot close my heart to Thee  
I trace the rainbow through the rain  
And feel the promise is not vain  
That morn shall tearless be

O Love, that will not let me go.  
Oh Cross, that liftest up my head  
I dare not ask to fly from Thee  
I lay in dust life's glory dead  
And from the ground there blossoms red  
Life that shall endless be

## PRAYER

*Heavenly Father, we too are amazed that you have loved us and that you continue to love us. We thank you that you are a God who makes promises and keeps promises. We thank you that you are the hearer and answerer of prayer so teach us to pray from your word. For Jesus' sake. Amen.*

## 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

As we are now in another lockdown it means that we are no longer able to meet in the church building. As well as the video recording and the Worship at Home material which will continue to be made available through the church website and Facebook page, we will start a Zoom-service on Sunday mornings. The Zoom-service will begin at 11am for about 30-40 minutes. If you would like to join the Zoom-service, please contact the Session Clerk [SessionClerk@ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:SessionClerk@ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk) Please continue to take care and stay safe.

# THE LEPROSY MISSION

If anyone would like a copy of the Leprosy Mission 2021 Prayer Diary, or a home collection box, please contact Janet Winchester on 01349 865308. Like most charities, the Leprosy Mission has suffered a drop in income, and an increase in costs due to the global pandemic, so if you can help, please consider a donation. Donations can be made direct on the Leprosy Mission Scotland website or I will be gathering together what people have collected over the year towards the end of March.

# LADIES BIBLE STUDY

The Ladies Bible Study meet on Wednesdays at 9.45am on Zoom. We are looking at five studies called Living Christianity: following Jesus in every area of life. If you'd like to join us please contact [jintyebtinternet.com](mailto:jintyebtinternet.com) so an invitation can be sent to you.

# WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

"Friday 5th March is this year's World Day of Prayer. The Order of Service has been prepared by Christian Women of Vanuatu (formerly New Hebrides) in the Pacific Ocean. Sadly, it will not be possible to gather in person to pray together, but there are options available on-line. You can join a service on Zoom organised and led by members of the Scottish Committee at 2pm or, at the same time, there will be a local service led by ladies from Easter Ross. If you want to join either service, please e-mail Janet Winchester on [cjw49@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cjw49@hotmail.co.uk) for a copy of the invitation. The national service will also be recorded and will be available on [www.wdpScotland.org.uk](http://www.wdpScotland.org.uk) and the World Day of Prayer Scotland Facebook page. The Order of Service is available on the website as above. A few printed copies are also available. Phone Janet Winchester on 01349 865308 if you would like one. Offerings may be made individually by using the donate button on the website, by bank transfer or by cheque as indicated below."

