

14TH MARCH 2021

FERINTOSH PARISH CHURCH

WORSHIP AT HOME



www.ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk

"There may be some sins of which a man cannot speak, but there is no sin which the blood of Christ cannot wash away." (C. H. Spurgeon)

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 [Refrain]

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

PRAYER

Father in heaven, we thank You for the promise, for the covenant of grace. We thank You that the very substance of the covenant is Christ and His righteous obedience for His people even to death on a cross. Bless Your Word, 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' precious name, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

JOHN 14: 7 - 14 (NKJV)

7 Jesus said, if you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."

8 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us."

9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?

10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.

11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.

12 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

13 Jesus said, And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.


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

The promise of John 14:13 assures us of on-going communion with Christ in prayer. Jesus states not only that we may pray to Him, but that "whatever you ask in my name, this I will do." It is the scope of this promise that takes our breath away.

It is commonly and correctly stated that prayer does not mean that we get everything that we asked for exactly as we asked for it. Sometimes we pray foolishly, and we can be grateful that God's wisdom is not overruled by our folly. Furthermore, since the Lord's priorities are spiritual, He usually places our spiritual well-being ahead of our material well-being. The apostle Paul, for instance, prayed three times for God to remove a thorn from his flesh - whatever that was - and three times the Lord answered not by removing the thorn but by giving Paul grace to bear the affliction. God was teaching him a vital lesson, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor. 12:9). Unanswered prayers may also be a matter of timing, as for various reasons the Lord desires that we wait for what we have requested.



Having pointed out these standard explanations for why our prayers do not always seem to be answered, we need to realise that this is not the emphasis given by Jesus in this promise. Jesus emphasised that He will give whatever we ask of Him in prayer. Jesus, “is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or imagine, according to his power” (Eph. 3:20). There is literally no limit placed on the scope of our requests to Christ in prayer: “Whatever you ask,” He says, “this will I do” (Jn. 14:13). John Newton said: Thou art coming to a king, large petitions with thee bring; For His grace and power are such, none can ever ask too much.

There is, however, a condition placed on our prayers. Jesus says that He will do whatever we ask “in my name” (Jn. 14:13). “If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it” (Jn. 14:14).

For some believers, praying “in Jesus’ name” means nothing more than appending the words, “in Jesus’ name” to the end of their prayers. This is a good practice, so long as we are serious about what it means. When we pray “in Christ’s name,” we are coming to God the Father through the mediation of His Son, relying on His shed blood for our acceptance and His intercession for our admittance to God’s throne. **To pray in any other name, or simply to pray in no name at all, is to have no legitimate reason to expect God to answer your prayers.**

Praying in Christ’s name therefore means praying on the basis of His claims with God. The name of Christ, however, also refers to the whole of His self-revelation, including His character and known will. This means that prayer is to be in accordance with all that His name stands for. It is prayer proceeding from faith in Christ, prayer that gives expression to oneness with Christ, prayer that seeks to glorify Christ.” To pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ is to seek an endorsement of our request, and to ensure that what we ask is consistent with the nature and purposes of our Saviour.

When our prayer coincides with the known will of Christ – with His character, purposes, and attitude – that is, when we are praying in a way that Jesus would pray for us – then we should be confident to offer all kinds of prayers to our risen Lord.

Such prayers would include Christ’s blessing on His Word as it is preached and witnessed. To pray in the name of Christ is a serious matter, not to be taken lightly. We ask for many things without regard for our Lord, because we would please ourselves instead of Him. When we do, we find our prayers unanswered, because they were not truly in Christ’s name.

The best way we can be confident of praying in Christ’s name is to pray for the things the Bible tells us to seek. We should pray for love, joy, peace, patience, and other fruits of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23). We should pray for power to withstand temptation, since God has promised to respond with the help that we need (1 Cor. 10:13).

Parents should pray for their children to come to faith. All Christians should pray for opportunities to witness the gospel, and many more Christ-honouring matters. When we pray for things like these “in Christ’s name” we should pray with expectations of our Lord’s mighty answer, in His wise manner and timing, since He has promised, “If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it” (Jn. 14:14).

We will also find, as we consider Christ’s name in our prayers, that the subject matter of our prayers begins to change from a worldly to a godly and Christ-centred perspective. John Newton models a Christ-centred prayer: *With my burden I begin, Lord remove this load of sin. Let thy blood, for sinners spilt, set my conscience free from guilt. Lord, I come to thee for rest, take possession of my breast; There thy blood-bought right maintain, and without a rival reign.* As we pray with an increasing focus on the gospel and its work in our lives we will know an increasing measure of the power of Christ in answered prayer.

Whatever we pray in Christ’s name, we must seek above all else to bring glory to God the Father through His Son. Jesus said, “Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son” (Jn. 14:13).

This is exactly what we should expect if we are to pray in accord with Christ’s will. For what is the great desire of God the Son but the glory of God the Father? It was for this reason that the cross was to Jesus not a horror to be avoided but a sacrifice to be embraced to the glory of God. When Jesus prayed on the night of His arrest, the glory of God was His chief preoccupation.



"Father," Jesus began, "the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you" (Jn. 17:1). This is a new thought for many people, for we are so filled with the idea that prayer is getting something from God, that we rarely consider that prayer is actually a means by which God gets something from us. What He wants from us is glory, a glory that will lead others to trust Him.

To believe in Christ's name, and to pray in Christ's name, is to walk in Christ's way. His is a path that leads to glory and to unending pleasures at God's right hand. But His also is a path that enters into glory by way of the cross. Jesus taught, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" (Lk. 9:23). We therefore cannot pray in Christ's name and seek an exemption from the cross, but instead are called to "share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God" (2 Tim. 1:8).

Understanding our calling as believers in Christ, we should therefore not only conclude our prayers saying, "in Jesus name," but we should append to all our requests, "Father, not my will, but yours be done." Then, if we pray in Christ's name, for God's glory above all else, we may confidently know the reality of Jesus' promise: "Whatever you ask..., this I will do" (Jn. 14:13).

PSALM 103

1. O Thou my soul, bless God the Lord;
And all that in me is
Be stirred up his holy name
To magnify and bless

2. Bless, O my soul, the Lord thy God;
And not forgetful be
Of all his gracious benefits he
Hath bestow'd on thee.

3. All thine iniquities who doth
Most graciously forgive;
Who thy diseases all and pains
Doth heal, and thee relieve.

4. Who doth redeem thy life, that thou to
Death may'st not go down;
Who thee with loving kindness doth
And tender mercies crown.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we pray as you have given us your Word with the strong consolation of its truth, with the assurance that through faith we are anchored to Jesus Christ, give to each of us a gracious sense that you desire that we should be absolutely convinced of the security that you give us through faith in our beloved Saviour. Lead us into such assurance and its joy and its stability we pray for Jesus Christ our Saviour's 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 not able to meet in the church building at the moment the video recording and the Worship at Home material will continue to be made available through the church website and Facebook page.

For the next two Sundays (14th and 21st) there will be a Sunday morning Zoom service at 11am.

From 28th March the Sunday Zoom service will move to 6.30pm as we will re-commence our limited numbers Sunday morning services in the Church at 11am and 12.15pm (if numbers require).

If you would like to join the Zoom-service, please contact the Session Clerk
SessionClerk@ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk

For the return of Church services the seating is limited to comply with current guidelines. To attend you 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 or email the Session Clerk at 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.

Please continue to take care and stay safe.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

The Ladies Bible Study are studying the Letters of John. The series is "Walking in the Truth" by Cover to Cover. There are seven studies and the first is called "God is Light", looking at 1 John 1. The next study will look at 1 John 2 - Commanded to love. The ladies meet by Zoom on Wednesday mornings at 9.45am for approximately an hour. If you'd like to join us, email Janette on jintys@btinternet.com to receive the invitation.

FERINTOSH FOCUS

The next edition of the Ferintosh Focus will be published at the end of March. Any items or articles should be with the Editor please by Friday 19th March.

THE LEPROSY MISSION

If you are looking for Easter cards and gifts, the Leprosy Mission has a good selection. Look at tlmtrading.com. The Leprosy Mission Scotland is making available weekly meditations for Lent. TLMScotland is also looking for volunteers to take part in the virtual Kilt Walk in late April. Take a look at leprosymission.scot. If anyone has blue collecting boxes, or any other money for the Leprosy Mission, please let Janet Winchester have it by the end of March. It would be helpful if, for this year, you would open the collecting box yourself and hand in the total in larger denominations."