

4TH APRIL 2021

# FERINTOSH PARISH CHURCH

WORSHIP AT HOME



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

If Christ had not accomplished victory at the cross and the grave, then all we would be able to say today on Easter Sunday is that weeping endures for a night, and **what a long night that would be**. But through Christ's victory at the cross and over the grave we can say that weeping has endured for a night, but **JOY COMES IN THE MORNING!**

## HYMN

1 Man of sorrows what a name  
for the Son of God, who came  
ruined sinners to reclaim:  
Hallelujah, what a Saviour!

2 Bearing shame and scoffing rude,  
in my place condemned he stood,  
sealed my pardon with his blood:  
Hallelujah, what a Saviour!

3 Guilty, helpless, lost were we;  
blameless Lamb of God was he,  
sacrificed to set us free:  
Hallelujah, what a Saviour!

4 He was lifted up to die;  
"It is finished" was his cry;  
now in heaven exalted high:  
Hallelujah, what a Saviour!

5 When he comes, our glorious King,  
all his ransomed home to bring,  
then anew this song we'll sing:  
Hallelujah, what a Saviour!

## PRAYER

*Gracious Lord, Your Name is love, in love receive our prayer. Look to the cross of Your beloved Son and view the preciousness of His atoning blood; Listen to His never-failing intercession, and speak to our hearts, 'your sins are forgiven, be of good cheer.' Give to us more and more to prize the privilege of prayer, to find pardon in Christ, to converse with You; to know You in prayer as the path in which our feet tread, the latch upon the door of our lips, the marrow of our understanding, the strength of our will, the power of our affection and the sweetness of our memory. May the matter of our prayer be always wise, humble, scriptural, Christ-like. Give Your people unwavering faith that our prayers are never in vain. You have given us the greatest gift, the person of Your Son, and in Him You will give us all we need.*

*(Prayer from 'A collection of puritan prayers')*



## SCRIPTURE READING

### ROMANS 3 : 20-26 (NKJV)

20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,

22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,

26 to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

## 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

On this Easter Sunday we come to one of the most significant paragraphs in the Bible from Romans 3:20-26. We find in it a wonderful and glorious truth that offers a thorough and magnificent discussion of justification by faith. Not surprisingly, this paragraph plays a crucial role in the history of doctrine and the church. Also, the roots of this paragraph extend throughout the Bible itself. Two key places deserve notice. The first takes us back to Exodus, while the second is found at the end of John's Gospel.

First, consider Exodus 25:22. The context of this verse concerns the description of the tabernacle and specifically the key piece of furniture in the tabernacle, the ark of the covenant. We remember that the lid of the ark was known as the 'place of propitiation' or the 'mercy seat'. The lid was flanked on either side by two cherubim (Exodus 25:19). At this very place, at the 'place of propitiation' or 'the mercy seat', God meets His people, that's what we read in Exodus 25:22 "There I will meet with you." This lid, then, was the place of propitiation through the blood of sacrifice and this 'mercy seat' became the place where the wrath of God was turned away from His people.

The connection with Exodus 25 and Romans 3 concerns the word "propitiation" in the New Testament. We find the word "Propitiation" only a handful of times in the New Testament. One of those times is here in Romans 3:25. Propitiation refers to Christ and His work of redemption. Paul makes clear that God put forward Christ "as a propitiation" for His people because Christ is the acceptable, wrath-satisfying sacrifice on our behalf. When Jesus gave His life as a sacrifice for our sins, He also satisfied the righteous wrath of God against our sin (propitiation), which means that He provided for us reconciliation and peace with God, HALLELUJAH!!

Secondly, consider John 20:12. Mary Magdalene had come to the tomb of Christ only to find it empty. As she stooped down to look in, "She saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet." Back in Exodus 25, two carved angels took their places at either end of the mercy seat.

What wonderful significance we see here at Christ's empty tomb with two angels, one at either end pointing to the Old Testament mercy seat of propitiation being fulfilled in and through the Lord Jesus Christ.

How can we say this? Well, God's wrath is propitiated by Christ. Christ by His blood, His life and death, has taken God's wrath and punishment for His people. When Christ was on the cross, He not only took the punishment due for our sin, He took the wrath of God associated with the punishment. If you are a Christian, the blood of Christ is your propitiation. God is not angry with you, nor will He be again. This is the amazing propitiating power of the blood of Christ. Therefore, we can come to God without fear of condemnation (Romans 8:1) but instead we come with the imputed righteousness and the joy of Christ. **It's worth noting here that the purpose of God's wrath is to demonstrate the awfulness of sin but more to magnify the glory of His grace that is ours by faith in Jesus Christ.**

As in the Old Testament God desires to meet with His people, and the blood of the spotless lamb is the only means by which that meeting is made possible. The mercy seat of the Old Testament, and the blood sprinkled upon it by the high priest, prefigured Christ to come.

Christ did come, and Christ as The Spotless Lamb of God did make the sacrifice, and Christ was raised from the dead. Make no mistake about it, these are historical realities. The tabernacle was real. The ark of the covenant was real. The mercy seat was real. The cross was real. The empty tomb was real. And a real woman stooped to look at real angels.

In Exodus 25 The Lord provided the Israelites a place of propitiation on the ark's lid (mercy seat), and He still provides a place today. That "place" is Jesus Christ. He offers Himself to us. He turns away the wrath of God from us. He cleanses us of our sins. He cancels them out. He nullifies their power. He brings us into the presence of God blameless and acceptable. In turn we are compelled by the leading of the Holy Spirit to confess our sins to Him and believe that Jesus Christ propitiates to us. Only through this way, can we be saved.



## PRAYER

My friends, Christ is our mercy seat, He is our joy, He is our propitiation, He is the Lamb of God, and we're thankful that we don't need to find the mercy seat of the Old Testament Ark of the covenant to have sins forgiven. We rejoice on this Easter Sunday that we are justified by faith alone in the finished work of Christ by His death and Resurrection. Because of this, in and through Christ, God meets us today. Had Christ not been raised, we would have a mediator whose redeeming work on our behalf was not acceptable to God. However, Christ is risen indeed! It's no wonder the roof of our beautiful Ferintosh Parish Church nearly comes off when our precious congregation sing with endless thankfulness and joy, **Thine be the glory, Risen conquering Son, Endless is the victory, Thou o'er death hast won!**

*Heavenly Father, we thank you that in your mercy you have given us your Word that we might know the Word made flesh, the Word of God the Father. We bow before your magnificent majesty. We acknowledge your authority over our lives. We wonder at your amazing grace. We delight in your demonstrated love for us in Christ. And we cast ourselves utterly on your mercy in Jesus' precious name. Amen.*

## HYMN

Thine be the glory,  
Risen, conquering Son;  
Endless is the victory,  
Thou o'er death hast won;  
Angels in bright raiment  
Rolled the stone away,  
Kept the folded grave clothes  
Where Thy body lay.

*Thine be the glory,  
Risen conquering Son,  
Endless is the victory,  
Thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo! Jesus meets us,  
Risen from the tomb;  
Lovingly He greets us,  
Scatters fear and gloom;  
Let the church with gladness,  
Hymns of triumph sing;  
For her Lord now liveth,  
Death hath lost its sting. *(Refrain)*

No more we doubt Thee,  
Glorious Prince of life;  
Life is naught without Thee;  
Aid us in our strife;  
Make us more than conquerors,  
Through Thy deathless love:  
Bring us safe through Jordan  
To Thy home above. *(Refrain)*

## 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

Sunday Church services are at 11am and 12.15pm (if required). Seating in the Church 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](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.

The Sunday Zoom service is at 6.30pm. If you would like to join the Zoom-service, please contact the Session Clerk at [SessionClerk@ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:SessionClerk@ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk)

Please continue to take care and stay safe.

## LADIES BIBLE STUDY

The weekly meeting will take place on Zoom on Wednesday 7th April at 9.45am. We will complete 1John 3 and move on to 1John 4. If you'd like to join us, please email [jintysebtinternet.com](mailto:jintysebtinternet.com) so that an invitation can be sent to you. We'd love to see you.

## HIGHLAND FOODBANK

The box for any donations will be in the vestibule of the Church before Sunday Service. Please place food items etc in box which will be taken to the depot.

## GUILD PROJECTS

The totals in the Ferintosh Focus are quite out of date. These are the totals after three years:

CrossReach £100,054.67.  
Sailor's Society £78,205.37;  
Boy's Brigade £92,257.39;  
World Mission Council £79,595.12;  
Malawi Fruits £84,121.45;  
Free to Live Trust (Seema's Project) £95,745.25

making a grand total of **£529,979.25**.

It was amazing when we thought the other total was correct but this, as they say, is "**mind-blowing**"!!!! Well done all who contributed. Monies can be sent until September.