

9TH MAY 2021

FERINTOSH PARISH CHURCH

WORSHIP AT HOME



www.ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk

Let us look upon a crucified Christ, the remedy of all our miseries. His cross hath procured a crown, his passion hath expiated our transgression. His death hath disarmed the law, his blood hath washed a believer's soul. This death is the spring of our happiness, and the eternal testimony of divine love. (Stephen Charnock)

HYMN

1 And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Saviour's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

2 'Tis mystery all! The Immortal dies!
Who can explore His strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries
To sound the depths of love Divine!
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more.
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more.

3 He left His Father's throne above,
So free, so infinite His grace;
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race:
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me.

4 Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

5 No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness Divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the riches of your word. We thank you for the privilege and pleasure that we share together as we study it, as it flows into our lives, and then flows out from our lives. We pray more and more that we may become a people who know you intimately with a sense of awe and who have learned to pray in Jesus' way and in the Spirit's power. We delight in your goodness to us and we pray that you would help us to come to Christ on this Lord's Day with confidence and joy, we pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 CORINTHIANS 13: 4-8 (NKJV)

Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.

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

"Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends."

In our day, we must not let our familiarity with 1 Corinthians 13 blind us to the reality that true love is possible only with supernatural assistance. Although our culture believes that love is a mere feeling, 1 Corinthians 13 boldly proclaims that love involves effort. Love is not sentimental, but it refuses to rejoice in evil, endeavours to believe the best about others, cultivates contentment and not envy, and looks for the truth (v1-7). These things are too hard—in fact, they are impossible—for us in ourselves because of the sin that remains in us. The love described in 1 Corinthians 13 can only be a supernatural gift to us from God, for in ourselves we are utterly incapable of showing the non-selfish love that the Lord requires of us.

Love must be a supernatural gift of God's grace because love also bears and endures all things (1 Cor. 13:7; see Gal. 6:2). In other words, one defining quality of love is that it perseveres. Love continues in the best of times and in the worst of times as well. The Apostle Peter encourages us to endure suffering in its many forms (1 Peter 2:20-21). Yet, the pain of this suffering is real and intense. We cannot endure it and go on loving the Lord unless God pours love for Him and love for others into our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:5).

Under significant suffering, whether caused by illness, persecution, or our own poor choices, we can find our love for God weakening. We may quickly begin to question the Father's love for His children and His goodness to us. Only the Holy Spirit can sustain our love and help us grow in generosity and in serving others as we suffer. One of the ways He does that is by reminding us of the sure hope we have that Christ will return to bring in the new heaven and earth (Rev. 21:1-4). On that day, we will inherit the new creation, where all our tears will be wiped away and pain will be no more. The Spirit has revealed this sure end for believers in the Word of God and returning to it again and again will strengthen us so that we can persevere in suffering while showing the love of God.

Finally, love endures all things, even suffering, because it understands that suffering is frequently used by God to discipline us, and such discipline proves His love for us (Heb. 12:7-11). In our tragedies, we look for how God is shaping us, for it is His loving intent to use all things for our good and for His glory (Rom. 8:28).

Some of us reading this short study may be enduring great suffering and may wonder how we can go on loving God through it. Others will remember times of tragedy when they wondered the same. The answer is that the Lord alone can sustain us in love for Himself and for others. And the good news is that He promises to do this, for our glorification is sure if we trust in Christ (Rom. 8:29-30). We will persevere by His help, so let us ask for it this day. (Proverbs 3:11-12 Hebrews 11:32-40)

HYMN

Alas, and did my Saviour bleed?
And did my Sovereign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
For such a worm as I?

*At the cross, at the cross where
I first saw the light,
And the burden of my heart rolled away,
It was there by faith I received my sight,
And now I am happy all the day!*

Was it for sins that I had done
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity! grace unknown!
And love beyond degree! *(Refrain)*

Well might the sun in darkness hide,
And shut His glories in,
When Christ, the mighty Maker, died
For man, His creature's sin. *(Refrain)*

Thus might I hide my blushing face
While His dear cross appears.
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
And melt mine eyes to tears. *(Refrain)*

But drops of grief can ne'er repay
The debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away,
'Tis all that I can do. *(Refrain)*

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, how marvellous our Lord Jesus Christ appears in our eyes as you point us to His grace in His own word in the Scriptures. We pray that as we worship that something of the sheer grandeur and completeness of our Saviour will deeply minister to us. Hear us, bless us, we pray, in Jesus our Saviour's name. 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

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 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.

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

Please continue to take care and stay safe.



HIGHLAND FOODBANK

The foodbank have an abundance of pasta, tinned soup and all kinds of tinned beans. However, they would appreciate donations of rice, long-life fruit juice, UHT milk, tinned potatoes, sugar, tins of ham/corned beef/mince/stew, oatcakes and crackers, tins of custard, small washing powder, toilet rolls and bags for life. There is a box for your donations inside the vestibule of the Church. Thank you.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

The next Zoom meeting will be held on Wednesday 12th May at 9.45am when we will complete the study on 2 John and begin the one on 3 John. All are welcome and you can join by contacting jintys@btinternet.com so that a link can be sent to you.

THE LEPROSY MISSION

Many thanks to everyone who donated money to the Leprosy Mission over the past year. A total of £150 has been forwarded to The Leprosy Mission Scotland.

The Leprosy Mission is asking for signatures on an on-line petition supporting the repeal of all laws which discriminate against people who have, have had or are affected by leprosy. In some countries, for example, a diagnosis of leprosy is still grounds for divorce. The petition can be accessed on The Leprosy Mission Scotland website.

You are also invited to join in a Global Day of Prayer relating to leprosy on Wednesday 12th May. Again, see the TLMScotland website.

‘I pray to God that the rainfall will become normal’

The climate crisis robs Rose of what she needs to survive: a reliable source of water.

Together we can help ensure people like Rose have the water they need to live.

Give and pray with us this Christian Aid Week.



Join us:

Unfortunately, this year again, Covid 19 means we cannot visit individual homes to collect money or give out envelopes. The work of Christian Aid however does not stop. In fact Covid 19, together with the existing climate emergency, both of which disproportionately affect the poorest in the countries with least resources, mean that there is an even greater call on assistance from Christian Aid, at a time when fund raising is even more difficult.

So... please consider making a donation, either:

via the Christian Aid website (www.christianaid.org.uk) OR

via tel.020 7523 2269 OR

directly into Christian Aid's bank account (phone 020 7523 2226 for details) OR

by cheque (Christian Aid are requesting that people do not send cheques to their office, but cheques made out to Ferintosh Church of Scotland, in an envelope clearly marked Christian Aid, can be delivered to Janet Winchester for onward transmission).

Many thanks.