

27TH JUNE 2021

# FERINTOSH PARISH CHURCH

WORSHIP AT HOME



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

*Unfathomable oceans of grace are in Christ for you. Dive and Dive again - you will never reach the bottom of these depths!*

(Robert Murray McCheyne)

## HYMN

Glorious things of thee are spoken,  
Zion, city of our God;  
He, whose word cannot be broken,  
Formed thee for His own abode.  
On the Rock of Ages founded,  
What can shake thy sure repose?  
With salvation's walls surrounded,  
Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters,  
Springing from eternal love,  
Well supply thy sons and daughters,  
And all fear of want remove:  
Who can faint, while such a river  
Ever flows their thirst to assuage?  
Grace which, like the Lord, the giver,  
Never fails from age to age.

Saviour, if in Zion's city  
I, through grace, a member am,  
Let the world deride or pity,  
I will glory in Thy name:  
Fading is the sinner's pleasure,  
All his boasted pomp and show;  
Solid joys and lasting treasure  
None but Zion's children know.

## 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 HEBREWS 7: 11 - 28

11 Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need *was there* that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron?

12 For the priesthood being changed, of necessity there is also a change of the law.

13 For He of whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no man has officiated at the altar.

14 For *it is* evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood.

15 And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest

16 who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life.

17 For He testifies:

*"You are a priest forever*

*According to the order of Melchizedek."*

18 For on the one hand there is an annulling of the former commandment because of its weakness and unprofitableness,

19 for the law made nothing perfect; on the other hand, *there is the* bringing in of a better hope, through which we draw near to God.

20 And inasmuch as *He was* not *made* priest without an oath

21 (for they have become priests without an oath, but He with an oath by Him who said to Him:

*"The Lord has sworn*

*And will not relent,*

*'You are a priest forever*

*According to the order of Melchizedek' "*),

22 by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant.

23 Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing.

24 But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood.

25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

26 For such a High Priest was fitting for us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;

27 who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.

28 For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, *appoints* the Son who has been perfected forever.

## 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

*"Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them" (Heb. 7:25).*

Jesus is the guarantor of a better, more perfect covenant (Heb. 7:22). The old covenant, though good in a temporary sense, was imperfect because its priesthood could never bring perfection to the people (v. 11). The Levitical priesthood could make no one perfect because no Levite lived forever (vv. 23-24).

The many priests of the old covenant made the full experience of salvation under their economy impossible. Their deaths made it known that they were sinners, just like the people they were charged with representing. They were never able to offer a sacrifice completely free of their own evil motives and desires, no matter how good they were or how hard they tried. They could not save anyone because they needed to be saved themselves. God accepted their sacrifices only because they pointed to the time when the perfect mediator would come.

When Christ came everything changed. He is free from sin and therefore can hold the office of priest forever. Being very God of very God, He is the power of salvation itself. "He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them" (v. 25).

John Owen points out that saving us to the uttermost means that Christ "will not bring about part of our salvation and leave what remains to ourselves and to others... . Whatever belongs to our entire, complete salvation, he is able to effect it." Christ does not leave us to ourselves but brings about our whole salvation, from its beginning at regeneration to its culmination in our glorification.

Verse 25 also tells us that it is Christ's intercession that makes our complete salvation possible. Christ forever pleads with the Father to sanctify us and to have mercy on us. The priests of old did this only imperfectly because they always died before Israel could be perfected. Sometimes there was no Levitical priest to perform the prescribed work of intercession under the old covenant (for example, during the exile). However, Christ forever intercedes for us. When we fail, He asks the Father for mercy on us. He pleads our case with the Father and secures the grace we need to be more and more conformed to His image. And the Father, out of love for us and for His Son, always answers these prayers offered on behalf of His elect people.

Without the intercession of Christ we have no hope. But if Christ intercedes for you, you can be assured that He will complete your salvation. Hebrews 7:25 tells us that Christ only intercedes for those who draw near to God through Him. Make it a daily habit to draw near to God through Christ in repentance, confession, thanksgiving, and praise.

## 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, should die for me?

# WORSHIP

2 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.

3 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 th'eternal throne,  
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.

## PRAYER

*Heavenly Father, we come before you and give thanks for Your Precious Son Jesus Christ. We thank you for the cross on which the Saviour died, and in response may our richest gain be counted loss and pour contempt on all our pride. We remember how Christ was thankful on the night before the crucifixion. How He broke bread and gave thanks that His body would be broken for sinners. That He would become our substitute, taking upon Himself our sin and imputing righteousness to His people.*

*The joy before Christ was God's people who are to Him the rescued lamb laid across the Good Shepherd's shoulders, the lost coin found, the Prodigal Son embraced. We ask that You would be near to us all as we continue to live in this new normal. Give us strength, grace, hope, patience and encouragement we pray in Jesus name, Amen.*

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.

## HIGHLAND FOODBANK

Your donations are still urgently required to help the most vulnerable in our local area. Donations can be placed in the container in the vestibule as you enter the Church.

## 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.**