

4TH JULY 2021

FERINTOSH PARISH CHURCH

WORSHIP AT HOME



www.ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk

"Long before time began, or space was created, God had written upon His heart the names of His elect people." (C. H. Spurgeon)

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

JOHN 16: 20 - 24

20 Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy.

21 A woman, when she is in labour, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world.

22 Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you.

23 "And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.

24 Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

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

"In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full" (vv. 23-24).

Jesus had hard things to tell His disciples during His Farewell Discourse, including that persecution was coming and that He would be departing from among them (John 15:18-16:4; 16:16-19). He would no longer be physically present among His people, though He would be with them spiritually (16:4-15). Still, His departure would grieve His friends, so Jesus addressed that sorrow as well.

Today's passage records for us what our Saviour said about the disciples' grief. First, Christ told them their sorrow would be temporary. They would lament and weep for a time, but then they would be joyful (vv. 20-21). Why? Because while He would leave them temporarily in His death, He would be restored to them in His resurrection. They would see Him again and experience a joy that no one would be able to take away (v. 22).



PSALM 118: 19 - 26

Of course, Jesus did not mean that they would never experience sorrow again. His point was that they would have an abiding joy because they would know Jesus had conquered death and hell. We can endure every trial knowing that we will live eternally in the new heavens and earth (Rev. 21).

To illustrate how the disciples would be sorrowful and then have great joy, Jesus compared their situation to that of a woman giving birth. Labouring to deliver a baby is one of the most painful things a woman can experience, but any difficulty and sorrow she endures melts away when she sees her baby for the first time. Jesus meant that when the disciples saw the risen Saviour, the sorrow they felt at His death would disappear.

It's also worth noting here that the Old Testament frequently uses the image of a woman in labour and delivery to depict the transition from the old age of sin and death to the messianic era. Isaiah 26:16-21 is particularly noteworthy as it compares the efforts of a pregnant woman delivering her baby to troubles that occur before the final resurrection. By using this same imagery of His own death and resurrection, Jesus indicated that His death and resurrection inaugurate the last days and that He is the first of God's people to be raised from the dead incorruptible.

Additionally, after the resurrection, the disciples would begin asking for things from the Father in Jesus' name (John 16:23-24). The resurrection would verify Jesus' claims of deity, and His followers would regularly associate the Father and the Son in their prayers. Today, we ask for things according to God's will by praying to the Father in the name of the Son and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Although we may certainly pray to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, the normal pattern for prayer that Jesus has given to us is to approach the Father in the name of the Son and by the power of the Holy Spirit. As we follow Jesus' instructions for prayer, we can be confident that God hears us and answers us according to His will. So, let us approach the Father regularly, praying in the name of Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is the gate of God, by it
the just shall enter in.
Thee will I praise, for thou me heard'st
and hast my safety been.

That stone is made head corner-stone,
which builders did despise:
This is the doing of the Lord,
and wondrous in our eyes.

This is the day God made, in it
we'll joy triumphantly.
Save now, I pray thee, Lord; I pray,
send now prosperity.

Blessed is he in God's great name
that cometh us to save:
We, from the house which to the Lord
pertains, you blessed have.

PRAYER

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.

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

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.