

15TH AUGUST 2021

# FERINTOSH PARISH CHURCH

WORSHIP AT HOME



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

*"Where there is no holy living, there's no Holy Spirit." (J.C. Ryle)*

# HYMN

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,  
pilgrim through this barren land;  
I am weak, but thou art mighty;  
hold me with thy powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,  
feed me till my want is o'er,  
feed me till my want is o'er.

Open now the crystal fountain,  
Whence the healing stream doth flow;  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar  
Lead me all my journey through.  
Strong Deliv'rer, strong Deliv'rer,  
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield;  
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield..

When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside.  
Death of death, and hell's Destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side.  
Songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever give to thee,  
I will ever give to thee.

# PRAYER

*O God, we pray that you would open our eyes and ears to see and understand your truth. Give us your Holy Spirit and anoint us with the Holy One that we may understand all things. Father, we pray that by Your grace that You would enable us not to become weary in well doing, but rather that our eyes might be upon Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. To His praise and glory we pray. Amen.*

# SCRIPTURE READING

## 1 THESSALONIANS 5: 1 - 11 NKJV

1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you.  
2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.  
3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labour pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.  
4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.

5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.  
6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.  
7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night.  
8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation.  
9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.  
11 Therefore comfort each other and [c]edify one another, just as you also are doing.

# 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

*"God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."  
(1 Thessalonians 5:9-11)*

Jesus is coming back to consummate His kingdom, and although we do not know exactly when that will happen, we do know that it could be at any moment. Paul reminds us of these great truths in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:3, and in 5:4-8 he unfolds what that means for Christians here and now. We are to live as children of the light, men and women who understand that Jesus' return is on the horizon and who put on the armour of God, growing in faith, hope, and love as we become more and more like Christ.



## PARAPHRASE 26

Importantly, while Paul encourages us to live as people with moral sobriety and to act like children of the light (v. 6), he tells believers that we already dwell in the light (v. 8). Here we see again the grounding of the imperative—what God commands—in the indicative—what we already are. The Christian ethic does not command us to make ourselves something that we are not, to become saints through our own efforts. Instead, we are set apart as God’s holy people in Christ (1 Peter 2:9). Our calling is to follow the Spirit and live by the Word of God so that we become in our practice what we already are, children of the light in union with Jesus by faith.

It is fitting that we live in holiness considering our eternal destiny. Paul emphasises this in today’s passage when he says that we have been destined not for wrath but for salvation (1 Thess. 5:9). In one sense, we have already been saved, for we have been justified and declared righteous in Christ, and that guarantees that all the benefits of the saving work of Jesus will be ours (Rom. 8:29–30).

Yet, there is a sense in which we are waiting for the fullness of salvation, for we have not yet been glorified and we still war against sin in our bodies and spirits (Rom. 7). In Jesus, we are destined for salvation and to receive the full reception of redemption’s blessings, and since we will certainly enjoy these things if we are in Christ, we are to start preparing for that day now by striving for “the holiness without which no one will see the Lord” (Heb. 12:14).

We are destined not for wrath (eternal punishment) but for salvation because Christ has died for His people. And because Christ died and rose again, we will live with Him and we will be conscious of His blessing whether we walk the earth or our bodies are in the grave. There is no truth more encouraging than this (1 Thess. 5:9–11).

Growing in holiness today prepares us for the time when we will be perfectly holy in our glorification. And when we pursue holiness, we prove that we belong to Christ and are destined for salvation. All this is grounded in Jesus’ atoning death for us, so if we trust in Christ, we can more and more die to sin and live to righteousness. Let us pursue holiness today.

Ho! ye that thirst, approach the spring  
where living waters flow:  
free to that sacred fountain all  
without a price may go.

How long to streams of false delight  
will ye in crowds repair?  
How long your strength and substance waste  
on trifles light as air?

Seek ye the LORD while yet His ear  
is open to your call;  
while offered mercy still is near,  
before His footstool fall.

## 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 has been limited to comply with level 1 guidelines and will remain limited for now. 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](https://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.