

22ND AUGUST 2021

# FERINTOSH PARISH CHURCH

WORSHIP AT HOME



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

*"Let us thank God for this Bible; let us love it; let us count it more precious than much fine gold." (C.H. Spurgeon)*

# HYMN

I hear the saviour say  
Thy strength indeed is small  
Child of weakness watch and pray  
Find in me thine all in all

*Jesus paid it all  
All to him I owe  
Sin had left a crimson stain  
He washed it white as snow*

Lord, now indeed I find  
Thy power and thine alone  
Came and changed the lepers spots  
And it melt the heart of stone [Refrain]

And when before the throne  
I stand in him complete  
Jesus died my soul to save  
My lips shall still repeat [Refrain]

# PRAYER

*Father in heaven, we thank You for the promise, for the covenant of grace. We thank You that the very substance of the covenant is Christ and His righteous obedience for His people even to death on a cross. Bless Your Word, 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' precious name, Amen.*

# SCRIPTURE READING

## PHILIPPIANS 4: 1 - 7

### NKJV

1 Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.

2 I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.

3 And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life.

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

5 Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ 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

*"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice"* (Phil. 4:4). I am convinced that one of the most powerful testimonies to Christ in our lives is a deep spiritual joy.

"Rejoice in the Lord always." That is a command from God. Many think that joy is like the flu: it is something you catch. It just happens. Others say that joy is in the genes. It is an innate character trait in some people that automatically emerges from their DNA. Yet all through Scripture, God commands joy. Joy is the second element listed in the fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23). Love is the first. Is love a virus that is caught? Is love automatic? No, God commands us as Christians to love, even in the most difficult situations. Husbands and wives are commanded to love each other because authentic love is not an involuntary action. Just so, we are commanded to rejoice. It is a decision, it's a choice we make. Every day we will choose either joy or cynicism; joy or despair; joy or desolation; joy or worry; joy or complaining.

"Rejoice in the Lord always." The world can know love and joy because every person has been made in the image of God. So why is joy listed as a unique element in the fruit of the Spirit? How is the Christian's joy different from the world's joy? Our joy is founded on Christ.



## PSALM 8

It is a consecrated joy. It is a supernaturally empowered joy. The follower of Jesus has been changed by the Holy Spirit in the core of his being. He has been given a heart with a greater capacity for joy. More than that, he is indwelt by the Holy Spirit, where the Holy Spirit brings His omnipotence to bear in every part of the Christian's life. This joy is a testimony to the reality of a reborn heart and the presence of the Holy Spirit. An individual can confess orthodox Christian doctrine with his lips and deny that faith with a life marked by despondency and melancholy. Consecrated joy flows only from the ocean of our Creator and Redeemer.

"Rejoice in the Lord always." Our joy is founded in the Lord, not in circumstances. This joy can be a constant in our lives. Joy is easily expressed when you are enjoying a beautiful morning and all winds are favourable. It is not so easy to say, "This is a day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" when grief and heartache come to a family. Yet even though the circumstances have changed, the Lord has not. He is still sovereign, good, merciful, and present. His promises to work even in the darkest acts of death for the good of His children are current and valid (Rom. 8:28). Beneath the heart-wrenching sorrow, beneath the tears there abides the truth that we have a Father who gave His own Son to die for our sins. There is the reality that no sorrow is outside of His all-powerful consolation. We cannot know the power of His joy until we walk through our darkest hours.

This joy is a fortress for the Christian in a fallen world. Nehemiah said to his people who were in tears, "Do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength" (Neh. 8:10). We may think he should have said, "The strength of the Lord is your joy." No! Nehemiah understood. The great joy of the Lord is a powerful fortress. What keeps our lives from being consumed by sorrow, despair, and cynicism? The joy of the Lord is our stronghold. In all the great cities of the ancient world, there was an acropolis. It was a fortified height in the city to which the people retreated when threatened by an enemy. The acropolis of the kingdom of God is the joy of the Lord. That is what Paul implied when he said we are "more than conquerors" in difficult situations (Rom. 8:37).

How excellent in all the earth,  
Lord, our Lord, is thy name!  
Who hast thy glory far advanc'd  
above the starry frame.

When I look up unto the heav'ns,  
which thine own fingers fram'd,  
Unto the moon, and to the stars,  
which were by thee ordain'd;

Of thy hands' works thou mad'st him lord,  
all under's feet didst lay;  
All sheep and oxen, yea, and beasts  
that in the field do stray;

Fowls of the air, fish of the sea,  
all that pass through the same.  
How excellent in all the earth,  
Lord, our Lord, is thy name!

## PRAYER

*Lord, help us to know Christ better, to know that He has loved us to the end and to love and trust him more. We pray for His sake and for our good in His 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 morning worship takes place at 11am in the church. We have reduced social distancing to 1 metre within the church and as a result have been able to increase the number of seats that are available, though there is still an upper limit. We would love to be able to welcome you to the service, so to guarantee a seat, please book with the Session Clerk, Martin McLauchlan, preferably by 5pm on the Friday prior to the service.

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

Highland Foodbank: Please continue to support the work of the foodbank by donating food, toiletries and household cleaning items. Beans, soup and pasta are not required for now due to a large supply. Long life items such as juice and milk are always welcome. Think of how it is to be cooked since sometimes people have limited access to cooking facilities. Sadly items of fresh food are unable to be used. Thank you for your great support each week.