

29TH AUGUST 2021

FERINTOSH PARISH CHURCH

WORSHIP AT HOME



www.ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk

"My sole hope for Heaven lies in the full atonement made upon Calvary's cross for the ungodly. On that I firmly rely. I have not the shadow of a hope anywhere else." (C.H. Spurgeon)

HYMN

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch; like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

The Lord hath promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.

PRAYER

Gracious God and Father, thank you for the joy of your presence with us. We praise you that you are a God of joy and of infinite grace, a Father to your children. We praise you that you have given up your own Son for us on the cross that all the privileges of your grace might be ours this day. So, make us holy through your truth, your Word is truth. And this we pray for Jesus Christ our Saviour's sake. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING 1 TIMOTHY 2: 1 - 7 NKJV

1 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men,
2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.
3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour,
4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,
6 who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,
7 for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle—I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying—a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

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

"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way" (1 Tim. 2:1-2).

Those words seem general and somewhat bland when we initially read them. In Paul's day those were powerful words that set a strategic priority for the prayers of the church. Verse one had to be important to Paul, for he opened the sentence with "First of all" — in other words, "This is a priority." Then he wrote, "I urge," pressing the readers to act. This was more than sage advice or a simple request.

It is doubtful that Christians in Ephesus were inclined to pray for the Caesar in Rome. That is what made Paul's exhortation so powerful. He was saying in effect: "Stretch your prayers; pray for all people... even Caesar." Why should they pray for wicked kings who had sworn that the kingdom of Christ was an enemy? Paul called them to pray for the civic leaders so that "we may lead a peaceful and quiet life" (v. 2). Don't misread this. His purpose was not personal peace and prosperity of individual Christians in that great city. The "we" in that sentence is the church. Paul was pressing the church to pray for the Caesars of this world, that the church might not live under the constant disruption and havoc of persecution.



HYMN

Paul's instruction to the saints in Ephesus was to pray for their rulers and others for the sake of the kingdom. Paul was not telling them to seek their own advantage in their prayers. He was saying, "In your prayers make the kingdom of God a priority." Jesus said in every part of our lives we are to "seek first the kingdom of God" (Matt. 6:33). Are our prayers seeking the kingdom of God first?"

Should we pray for our family's physical and economic well-being? Certainly, we should. But Paul was saying to Timothy: "Make the welfare of the kingdom of God a priority in your requests. Stretch your prayers even to include the Caesar, for the benefit of the church."

He went on to say that we aim our prayers this way because God "desires all people to be saved." (1 Tim. 2:3-4) Therefore, if we are praying God's will, we will pray for people around us to be saved. Are our prayers aimed toward the repentance and salvation of fellow sinners who are outside of Christ? All true evangelism begins with prayer.

Dr. Leon Morris wrote, "When Christians evangelise, they are not engaging in some harmless and pleasant pastime. They are engaging in a fearful struggle, the issues of which are eternal." In evangelism we are wrestling "against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places" (Eph. 6:12). John R. Stott put it this way: "Nothing shuts the mouth, seals the lips, ties the tongue, like the poverty of our own spiritual experience." Some of us struggle with actually verbalising the gospel to our neighbours and fellow workers. We say we are not "gifted" in such evangelism. But there can be no excuse for failing to pray for our neighbours. That is something we can all do.

Many Christians and churches pray. However, their prayers should be aimed at the vision, advancement, and growth of the kingdom of God. May all our prayers be well aimed?

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Save me from its guilt and power.

Not the labour of my hands
Can fulfil Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All could never sin erase,
Thou must save, and save by grace.

Nothing in my hands I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress,
Helpless, look to Thee for grace:
Foul, I to the fountain fly,
Wash me, Saviour, or I die.

PRAYER

Father, we pray that our Lord Jesus would become everything to us, to our understanding, to our minds, engaging our hearts, stretching to the limits our imagination, and drawing from the very depths of our being worship and adoration. We pray that today in our homes that those who don't know Christ would be drawn to Him, drawn to Him like a magnet by your grace, and find in Him life, light, joy, peace and perfection, the perfection of who He is. In His strong and mighty name we pray. 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 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

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.