

26TH SEPTEMBER 2021

# FERINTOSH PARISH CHURCH

WORSHIP AT HOME



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

C. H. Spurgeon said, "What is it to believe in Christ? It is not merely to say 'He is God and the Saviour', but to trust in Him wholly and entirely and take Him for all your salvation from this time forth and forever as your Lord, your Master, your all." What wonderful assurance of faith this brings, as Thomas Watson said, "Once in Christ and ever in Christ. A star may sooner fall out of its orb than a true believer be plucked away from God"

## HYMN

1 Standing on the promises of Christ my King,  
Through eternal ages let His praises ring,  
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,  
Standing on the promises of God.

*Standing, standing,  
Standing on the promises of God my Saviour;  
Standing, standing,  
I'm standing on the promises of God.*

2 Standing on the promises that cannot fail,  
When the howling storms of doubt and fear  
assail,  
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,  
Standing on the promises of God.

3 Standing on the promises I now can see  
Perfect, present cleansing in the blood for me;  
Standing in the liberty where Christ makes  
free,  
Standing on the promises of God.

4 Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,  
Bound to Him eternally by love's strong cord,  
Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,  
Standing on the promises of God.

5 Standing on the promises I shall not fall,  
List'ning every moment to the Spirit's call.  
Resting in my Saviour as my All in all,  
Standing on the promises of God.

## PRAYER

O Holy Father, you have freely given your Son,  
O Divine Son, you have freely paid our debt,  
O Eternal Spirit, you have freely bid us come,  
O Triune God, you freely grace us with  
salvation.

We marvel that the finite can know the infinite,  
Here a little, afterwards in full-orbed truth;  
Now we know but a small portion of what  
we shall know,  
Here in part, there in perfection,  
Here a glimpse, there a glory.  
To enjoy thee is life eternal,  
And to enjoy is to know.  
Keep us in the freedom of experiencing  
your salvation continually,  
We pray in Jesus Name, Amen.  
(Prayer from 'A collection of puritan prayers')

## 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.*

## SCRIPTURE READING PHILIPPIANS 3: 8 - 14

8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain[a] to the resurrection from the dead. 12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

## SERMON

*"Prone to wander; Lord, I feel it. Prone to leave the God I love."* How often we sing these words from Robert Robinson's "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing," and they resonate because they are all too true. We are called to faithfulness as Christians, but we struggle to maintain it. Even the Apostle Paul knew the painful intensity of this inconsistency. He acknowledged it openly, out of pastoral concern for the believers in Rome who faced the same inner conflict.

He told them, "I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out" (Rom. 7:18). But he went on to say, "Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?" (v. 24). This inner conflict in the life of faith is both real and common to us all.

In making this confession, Paul was being honest about his struggle but not defeatist. He immediately went on to answer his own question, saying, "Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!" He is clearly saying here that deliverance from sin in all its dimensions came through Jesus. But we have to look elsewhere to see what this looks like in practice. The Apostle gave us the long version of this in Romans 8 but provided a shorter summary here in Philippians.

Once again, he was testifying to the struggles of faith he faced and again made it clear he was not yet perfect. But then he said, "One thing I do . . ." (Phil. 3:13). Out of the many things that mattered, he gave one thing priority. He told us exactly what it was: ". . . forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (vv. 13-14). He made it clear that faith needs a clear focus, and that is Christ. That is, we are to look to Jesus not only as the provider of our salvation but also as the pattern of how it transforms what we are and how we live.

It is easy for us to forget this double aspect of what it means to believe in Christ. This was certainly true in the church in Philippi, that's why Paul needed to spell it out for them. What is interesting is that he unpacked this truth not just in terms of who Christ is but where He is: in heaven. Therefore, His ongoing call to us as His people is "upward" (v. 14). In Him, "our citizenship" belongs there, and it is from there that He will one day come to bring us home (v. 20).

Why is this important? Because it says a lot about the horizons by which we live. Paul had already spoken of professing Christians whose minds were "set on earthly things" (v. 19), and the only antidote to this is to focus on heaven instead.

If we are genuinely seeking to be faithful in our Christian living, then our faith needs a clear focus: Christ who is seated in glory.

## HYMN

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing  
Call for songs of loudest praise  
Teach me some melodious sonnet  
Sung by flaming tongues above  
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it  
Mount of Thy redeeming love

Here I raise my Ebenezer  
Here there by Thy great help I've come  
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure  
Safely to arrive at home  
Jesus sought me when a stranger  
Wandering from the fold of God  
He, to rescue me from danger  
Interposed His precious blood

Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be  
Let that goodness like a fetter  
Bind my wandering heart to Thee  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it  
Prone to leave the God I love  
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it  
Seal it for Thy courts above  
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it  
Seal it for Thy courts above

## PRAYER

*Our heavenly Father, truly all blessings come from you. We thank you that in Jesus Christ you have filled us with blessings: the knowledge of the Lord, peace, the forgiveness of our sins, the transformation of our lives, a taste and indeed desire for the words that come to us from your mouth in the pages of Scripture. We thank you for the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ who has opened our eyes to see our need of Him and His all-sufficiency to be our Saviour here and hereafter. And we thank you for the way in which He has brought us to you so that we come to you as children to their heavenly Father. Lord, as you speak to us, make us conscious of how great your love for us is and so we look to you to lead us and to teach us from your word. We pray this in Jesus our Saviour's name. Amen.*



# WORSHIP

## 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.**

## LADIES BIBLE STUDY

The ladies are meeting each Wednesday at 1.30 pm in the Church Hall to study The Creed, the Apostles Creed, in particular. Next time we are looking at "I believe in the Church". Why not come along to learn more about our Christian faith and beliefs. We'd love to welcome you there.

## CROSSREACH

The Christmas catalogue has arrived for the CrossReach calendars and other items. Please ask Janette Steele if you'd like to view. Would those who have catalogues from the Guild meeting please return with or without an order as soon as possible. We require to order early if anyone wants to send abroad. Thank you.

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

Your donations are always welcomed at the depot and, unfortunately, they are in demand. Remember, we are all just one pay day away from needing the foodbank. Please continue to donate toiletries, cleaning materials, washing powders (small), tinned meats, vegetables, potatoes, long-life juice and milk. With the school holidays just around the corner, perhaps crisps and biscuits for the children as treats would be appreciated.