

10TH OCTOBER 2021

FERINTOSH PARISH CHURCH

WORSHIP AT HOME



www.ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk

"Let us not cease to do the utmost, that we may incessantly go forward in the way of the Lord; and let us not despair of the smallness of our accomplishments." (John Calvin)

HYMN

1 Come, let us to the Lord our God
with contrite hearts return;
our God is gracious, nor will leave
the desolate to mourn.

2 His voice commands the tempest forth,
and stills the stormy wave;
and though his arm be strong to smite,
'tis also strong to save.

3 Long has the night of sorrow reigned;
the dawn shall bring us light;
God shall appear, and we shall rise
with gladness in his sight.

4 Our hearts, if God we seek to know,
shall know him and rejoice;
his coming like the morn shall be,
like morning songs his voice.

5 As dew upon the tender herb,
diffusing fragrance round;
as showers that usher in the spring,
and cheer the thirsty ground:

6 So shall his presence bless our souls,
and shed a joyful light;
that hallowed morn shall chase away
the sorrows of the night.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the way in which your word has given us understanding. We pray that we may be able to say, "There is one thing I know, once I was blind but now I see the arm of the Lord revealed in my Saviour and King and friend, the Lord Jesus." So we look to you for ourselves and for one another and for your saving grace. We thank you for all our Saviour has done for us and we pray in His name, Amen.



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 2: 12 - 18

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

14 Do all things without complaining and disputing, 15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

16 holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or laboured in vain.

17 Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.

18 For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.

SERMON

John Stott's *Your Mind Matters* opens with a statement that, in effect, prioritises the role of the mind in Christianity. Many others have added similar expressions of concern about modern evangelicalism's capitulation into sentimentality. And nowhere is this sentimentality more apparent than in discussing what Jesus meant when he said, "Abide in me, and I in you" (John 15:4, see v. 6).

HYMN

What does “abide” mean in this context? Greek and English dictionaries suggest these synonyms: *continue, dwell, endure, be present, remain, stand, tarry (for)*. The relationship we enjoy with Christ in the gospel is entirely of grace. God initiates it. But once it is initiated, we do not then become passive in that relationship. There is a response on our part.

True, the response is one that requires the energy of the Holy Spirit: “Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure” (Phil. 2:12-13). This God-directed and sustained cooperation on our part in our sanctification (Paul calls it “obedience” in v. 12) is something both the Holy Spirit and we do. We cannot lose sight of the emphasis on our involvement.

The context in which Jesus calls us to abide suggests some more focused ideas of what it means to abide.

First, abiding in Christ has something to do with the way Scripture dwells in our hearts: “If you abide in me, and my words abide in you” (John 15:7). To abide in Christ is to be immersed in Scripture: to read it, study it, ingest it. “Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day” (Ps. 119:97).

Second, abiding in Christ suggests categories of obedience, responsive behaviour, and holiness. The goal of having God’s Word in our hearts is that it might refashion us to become more like Christ. Abiding in Christ is a measure of our conformity to what God asks us to do in response to His grace to us in the gospel.

Third, abiding in Christ suggests a passionate, increasing, enduring love of Christ: “If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love” (John 15:10). Our love for Christ must grow and flourish. I need to be able to say that I love him more today than yesterday.

Fourth, abiding in Christ will shape our praying, enabling us to pray in a manner that conforms to His will, “ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you” (John 15:7).

I Rejoice, the Lord is King:
Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing,
And triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart,
Lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Jesus, the Saviour, reigns,
The God of truth and love;
When He has purged our stains,
He took his seat above;
Lift up your heart,
Lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail,
He rules o'er earth and heav'n;
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus giv'n:
Lift up your heart,
Lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope!
Our Lord and judge shall come
And take His servants up
To their eternal home:
Lift up your heart,
Lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, your Word tells us that you are the all-wise God. When we come to trust in Jesus Christ who is your wisdom and the One who is the power for our salvation, we pray that you will work your wisdom into our lives. And we ask this, in Jesus' 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 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.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Meetings are held each Wednesday at 1.30pm for approximately one hour. We are studying the Creed at the moment. The final study on this is called "I believe in eternal life". Please come along and find out more about our Christian faith and beliefs.

HIGHLAND FOODBANK

Long life food items, toiletries, cleaning materials are very welcome at the Foodbank. Please remember the children at this school holiday time and try to provide a little extra something for them. Thank you so much for your continued support for this charity.

LEPROSY MISSION

The new Leprosy Mission catalogue is now available, with lots of Christmas cards, gifts and other items. This can be found on-line at www.tlmtrading.com, or a copy can be requested free of charge by phoning 0330 124 2668. Janet Winchester also has a copy, which can be borrowed (01349 865308).

CHRISTIAN AID

This harvest-tide Christian Aid is appealing for funds to help people in several different areas of the world become more resilient to the effects of climate change in their homes, on their farms and at their businesses. If you are able, please consider making a donation on-line at www.christianaid.uk, by phone on 020 7620 4444, or by post at PO Box 100, London SE1 7RT.

Christian Aid is also involved in campaigning for climate justice, and is organising various events and activities around the upcoming COP Summit which will take place in Glasgow next month. Have a look on www.christianaid.uk for details.