

17TH OCTOBER 2021

FERINTOSH PARISH CHURCH

WORSHIP AT HOME



www.ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk

"To pray is to enter the treasure-house of God and to gather riches out of an inexhaustible storehouse." (C.H. Spurgeon)

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 JOHN 15: 9 - 15

9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.
10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.
11 "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and *that* your joy may be full.
12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.
13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.
14 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.
15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

SERMON

Love, in our culture, is often reduced to sentimental feeling. Love is seen not primarily as an action but as an emotion that comes and goes. When the feeling of love goes, the culture tells us, we can end relationships and go our own way.

Certainly, we do not deny that love has an emotional component. However, the biblical authors do not define love as a mere feeling. Love, in Scripture, consists also in purposeful action. We see that very clearly in today's passage.

Jesus instructs us to abide in His love, but the primary way that we do that, He tells us, is by keeping His commandments (John 15:9-10). Abiding in the love of Christ is not a passive thing or something that consists only in a feeling of affection toward Jesus. Instead, we abide in the love of Christ by doing something, namely, by following His commands.

This makes good sense in light of the doctrine of God. We distinguish God's attributes, but we cannot ever separate them or treat them as independent entities. God is holy and God is love, but properly speaking, God's holiness is His love, and His love is His holiness (Isa. 6:3; 1 John 4:8). His love is a holy love, so if we are to abide in His love we must strive after holiness.

John Calvin comments: "Christ does not reconcile believers to the Father, that they may indulge in wickedness without reserve, and without punishment; but that, governing them by his Spirit, he may keep them under the authority and dominion of his Father. Hence it follows, that the love of Christ is rejected by those who do not prove, by true obedience, that they are his disciples."

We must note that although our obedience to Christ is necessary for abiding in His love, His love for us is not ultimately grounded in our obedience. After all, "we love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19). God loves us, and the fruit of that love in the outworking of our salvation is obedience to Him, by which we abide in His love. Calvin comments that "the obedience which believers render to him is not the cause why he continues his love toward us, but is rather the effect of his love." We persevere in faith, but we persevere because of God's sustaining love and power.

In today's passage, Christ is not talking about our justification, our being declared righteous in God's sight, so keeping His commandments (John 15:9-11) does not mean sinless perfectionism. It means a sincere effort to obey Him, repentance when we sin, and a refusal to trust in our own merit for redemption (see 1 John).

Do we love Christ? If we do, we will seek to abide in His love, and we will abide in His love by seeking to obey Him. As we do that, however, we must never think that our obedience merits His love. We love because He first loved us, and even in our obedience we depend on His love and we are thankful for how it urges us on to serve Him.

HYMN

Jesus is the name we honour;
Jesus is the name we praise.
Majestic Name above all other names,
The highest heaven and earth proclaim
That Jesus is our God.

*We will glorify,
We will lift Him high,
We will give Him honour and praise.
We will glorify,
We will lift Him high,
We will give Him honour and praise.*

Jesus is the name we worship;
Jesus is the name we trust.
He is the King above all other kings,
Let all creation stand and sing
That Jesus is our God.

Jesus is the Father's splendour;
Jesus is the Father's joy.
He will return to reign in majesty,
And every eye at last shall see
That Jesus is our God.

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.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY WORSHIP

Meetings are held in the Church Hall each Wednesday at 1.30pm for approximately one hour. We will complete the Creed studies this week and are planning to study the book of Galatians. Joni Eareckson Tada will be guest speaker on the DVD we will use as stimulus for our discussion. It would be great to have you join us. A warm welcome awaits.

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.

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.

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

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.