

24TH OCTOBER 2021

FERINTOSH PARISH CHURCH

WORSHIP AT HOME



www.ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk

"There would be no communion between the Lord and us if the Lord did not first come to us with his grace." (John Calvin)

HYMN

1 Hark how the adoring hosts above,
with songs surround the throne!
Ten thousand, thousand are their tongues;
but all their hearts are one.

2 Worthy the Lamb that died, they cry,
to be exalted thus;
worthy the Lamb, let us reply;
for he was slain for us.

3 Thou hast redeemed us with thy blood,
and set the prisoners free;
thou mad'st us kings and priests to God,
and we shall reign with thee.

4 From every kindred, every tongue,
thou brought'st thy chosen race;
and distant lands and isles have shared
the riches of thy grace.

5 To him who sits upon the throne,
the God whom we adore,
and to the Lamb that once was slain,
be glory evermore.

PRAYER

Our heavenly Father, we thank you that Jesus does not break bruised reeds and He doesn't quench dimly burning wicks and we know in our heart of hearts that that's precisely what we are. We pray, Lord Jesus, that you would place your saving arms around us and strengthen us and that you would blow your Holy Spirit upon us with your own breath, and that by your grace, we may be able to taste and enjoy all the new pleasures that you give to your children. And we pray this in our Saviour's 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 HEBREWS 4: 1 - 8

1 Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.

2 For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.

3 For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said: "So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest,' "although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

4 For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way: "And God rested on the seventh day from all His works";

5 and again in this place: "They shall not enter My rest."

6 Since therefore it remains that some must enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience,

7 again He designates a certain day, saying in David, "Today," after such a long time, as it has been said:

"Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts."

8 For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day.

SERMON

After embracing Christ with great joy, some in the original audience of the epistle to the Hebrews began to waver in their commitment to Christ. This wavering made it necessary for the author of Hebrews to give them strong warnings against turning away from Christ. He wanted them to persevere and avoid the strong judgment that comes to those who profess Christ and later fall away (6:4-8).

Many of these warnings to his audience come in the second half of chapter 10. However, while these warnings are necessary and must never be ignored, the author knew that with these warnings, encouragement was also needed. Warnings by themselves might paralyse an audience in fear but coupled with true encouragement they will result in repentance and the perseverance of God's elect.

These encouragements are possible for only two reasons. One is the confidence that the elect will persevere until the end and never lose their salvation. The other reason comes from the realisation that perseverance is a process. As the lives of David and Peter show, true believers may sin heinously and yet be restored in faith. It is also true that all who confess Christ may doubt and sin and still be restored.

In today's passage, the author reminds his readers of times past when they had compassion on those in prison and when they joyfully accepted the plundering of their property. This shows us that the audience had already experienced some of the persecutions that came from being a Christian. Some of them had been imprisoned, and those who were still free came to their aid. By helping imprisoned believers, they ran the risk of being persecuted as well.

In short, the author is showing them that in times past they gave evidence of their salvation by performing the love and good works that are required of all true believers (v. 24). In light of this they must continue to do so. One sure sign of the work of Christ in our hearts is that we care for those who are in danger on account of their faith.



The audience could do these things when first converted because they knew of their abiding possession (v. 34), that is, heaven. They began to waver only because they had forgotten their eternal treasure. They only became concerned for their physical safety when they took their eyes off the prize of their heavenly possession.

Where do you fix your hope? Are your eyes on the perfection of heaven or have you become overly concerned with the things of this world? Look at your life, your goals, your concerns, and so on. Take some steps to change whatever might need to be changed for the good of your eternal reward.

HYMN

1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run,
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

2 To him shall endless prayer be made,
and praises throng to crown his head.
His name like sweet perfume shall rise
with every morning sacrifice.

3 People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.

4 Blessings abound where'er he reigns:
the prisoners leap to lose their chains,
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.

5 Let every creature rise and bring
the highest honours to our King,
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud amen.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank you so much that Jesus is not merely a political deliverer, that He doesn't just get us out of a mess, but He has come to be our Saviour, calls us to trust Him, to bow before Him and to call him Lord. We thank you so much for all that He is to us through faith. We pray for your blessing on one another, on our own lives, our families, our Christian witness in this city and far beyond. We pray that you would watch over us in the rest of this week. 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

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.

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 online 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

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.

GUILD

The next meeting of the Guild will take place on Monday 1st November at 2pm in the Church hall. The speaker will be Mr Little of Dingwall Men's Shed. Given that the creation of a Shed in Maryburgh is ongoing, this may be of interest to members of the congregation, and all are very welcome to attend. Please remember to wear warm clothing, and to bring a cup if you would like tea or coffee.