

31ST OCTOBER 2021

FERINTOSH PARISH CHURCH

WORSHIP AT HOME



www.ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk

"Visit many good books, but live in the Bible." (C. H. Spurgeon)

HYMN

1 A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;

Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing:

For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;

His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate,

On earth is not his equal.

2 Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;

Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing:

Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He; Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same,

And He must win the battle.

3 And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,

We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us:

The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;

His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure, One little word shall fell him.

4 That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;

The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him Who with us sideth:

Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;

The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still, His kingdom is forever.

PRAYER

Lord, we thank you for your word. We thank you for this wonder that the oldest and longest standing memories that we have of the teaching of scripture are so often the most important and that they can be refreshed at any time in our Christian lives. Help us, we pray, to be a people who love to explore what our Lord Jesus taught and love to do what our Lord Jesus commanded and love to live within the promise of his constant presence, and we ask this for his name's sake. 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 21: 1 - 8

After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed Himself: Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing."

They said to him, "We are going with you also." They went out and [a]immediately got into the boat, and that night they caught nothing. But when the morning had now come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Then Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any food?"

They answered Him, "No."

And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish.

Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it), and plunged into the sea. But the other disciples came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, but about two hundred cubits), dragging the net with fish.

SERMON

Given that John's purpose statement seems to be a fitting end to his gospel (John 20:30-31), some scholars have suggested that John 21 is a later addition to this book either by John himself or by someone else. However, the evidence suggests that chapter 21 is not a later addition and should be received as John's intended conclusion. If John 21 were a later addition, there would be some indications in the manuscripts of John's gospel that it originally circulated without this passage, but no such indications exist. Furthermore, epilogues were common enough in the ancient world that it is not strange for John to have included one. Finally, the style of chapter 21 matches the style of John 1-20 overall, making it unlikely that another person later added the chapter to John's gospel.

John 21 gives us some vital information about Peter's restoration, the purpose of the Apostolic ministry, and more. The chapter begins by telling us that the third appearance of Jesus to the disciples after His resurrection happened at the Sea of Tiberias (vv. 1, 14).

The Sea of Tiberias was another name for the Sea of Galilee, so when we encounter the disciples in today's passage, they have returned to their home region. Why had the disciples gone back to Galilee? The most likely explanation is that they were following Jesus' instruction. Mark 14:28 records that Jesus told the disciples He would go to Galilee after His resurrection, and one of the angels at Jesus' tomb instructed the women to tell Peter and the other disciples that the disciples would see our Lord in Galilee (16:7).

Returning to Galilee, the disciples decided to go fishing, probably because they were hungry (John 21:1-3a). Remember also that many of the disciples were fishermen (Matt. 4:18-22), so perhaps they were looking to earn some money to meet their needs. However, their fishing expedition had not been a success. Jesus, standing on the shore, called out and told them to cast their net "on the right side" of their boat (John 21:3b-6a). When they did so, they caught so many fish that they had difficulty hauling them in (v. 6b).

This episode is similar in some ways to a fishing episode that happened many years earlier when Jesus helped the disciples, which may explain why John was able to recognise that it was Jesus telling them where to cast their net (Luke 5:1-11; John 21:7a). Knowing that Jesus was there, Peter jumped into the water and headed for shore (John 21:7b-8).

In today's passage, Peter was so eager to see Jesus that he jumped into the water and swam toward the shore, where Jesus was standing (John 21:7-8). Although Peter frequently talked and acted before he should have done so, surely his eagerness to be with Jesus serves as a model to us. We should also be eager to spend time with our Saviour. Let us be quick to turn to Him in prayer as we go about our daily business.

HYMN

1 Be still, my soul! for God is on your side;
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain:
leave to your God to order and provide,
who through all changes faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul! your best, your heav'nly Friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

2 Be still, my soul! for God will undertake
to guide the future surely as the past.
Your hope, your confidence, let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be clear at last.
Be still, my soul! the waves and winds still know
the voice that calmed their fury long ago.

3 Be still, my soul! the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever in God's peace;
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
love's joys restored, our strivings all shall cease.
Be still my soul! when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank you for the wonder of all that you have done for us. Thank you, too, that you've not left us in the dark but that you in your goodness worked in these apostles so that they would be able to write down everything that you had said and done. Help us to grasp who Jesus really is and be gripped by Him and that as we read and hear the Bible, we may see the signs within it that point us to the faith and joy that these first Christians knew because of their trust in their Saviour. Bless us over this weekend, we pray, in Christ's 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

The meetings are held in the Church Hall each Wednesday at 1.30pm for approximately one hour. For now we are studying the book of Galatians using BookbyBook material which includes DVD interviews with Joni Eareckson Tada. We will be looking at the second study entitled "Paul, An Apostle to the Jews" reading chapter two. We'd love to have more ladies join us. All would be made very welcome.

SAFEGUARDING

The Safeguarding office is keen that all volunteers who have been trained more than 3 years attend online training.

Refresher training is for those who work in a volunteer capacity which regularly involves children and/or vulnerable groups whether pastorally outside or inside the church. The refresher training is the introductory training updated. The date for the training is:

23 November 10am - 12:30

Please let the minister know if you would like to attend the online refresher training.

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.

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 very generous donations are very much appreciated. However, sadly they are very much still required, even more now that Universal Credit top up is over. Please donate long life juice and milk, tins of potatoes, ham, corned beef and mince, rice, instant coffee, cereal, oatcakes and crackers, washing powder(small), washing up liquid and deodorants. Generally the foodbank has a surplus of soup and beans. Thank you all for your kindness to the most vulnerable in our community.