

3RD OCTOBER 2021

# FERINTOSH PARISH CHURCH

WORSHIP AT HOME



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

*"However many blessings we expect from God, His infinite liberality will always exceed all our wishes and our thoughts." (John Calvin)*

## HYMN

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!  
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!  
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
Unto Christ, our heavenly king, Alleluia!  
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!  
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!  
Now above the sky he's king, Alleluia!  
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!  
Praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!  
Praise him, all you heavenly host, Alleluia!  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

## PRAYER

*Our gracious God and Father, we bless you that the heavens are full of your praise and that from the earth there is an answering chorus of worship and adoration. We join with your people who have worshiped from the rising of the sun now until its setting. Our desire is that the name of the Lord should be praised throughout the earth, and we pray as we come before your throne and as you show us the sceptre of your word, that you would direct us afresh to the glory of your Son, that your Spirit would shine brightly upon Him, that He would take what belongs to the Lord Jesus and show it to us and fill us afresh with love for Him, with newfound trust in Him, with humble repentance for our sins because He is such a Saviour. This we pray for Jesus Christ our Saviour'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 15: 1 - 5

- 1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.
- 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He [a]takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.
- 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.
- 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.
- 5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

## SERMON

Christians abide in Christ. They cling tightly to their crucified, risen, and ascended Saviour. It's what believers do. Why? Because apart from Jesus Christ, we can do nothing. Indeed, apart from union and communion with Christ, by grace alone through faith alone, we are all spiritually powerless. On our own, we are dead in our sin and unable to produce spiritual fruit (Eph. 2:1-5). Abiding in Jesus, therefore, is essential to salvation and a growing walk with God. Jesus said:

*I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers . . . [is] thrown into the fire, and burned.*  
(John 15:5-6)

But what does it mean to abide in Christ? The phrase can seem a bit mysterious. I've been asked this question many times as a minister. This question is asked by those who love the Lord and want to faithfully abide in Him. Perhaps you also desire to abide in Christ but aren't sure how. The following is a brief explanation of what it means to abide in Christ.

Abiding in Christ means making Him the object of your faith. True faith accepts, receives, and rests upon Christ alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life (Westminster Confession of Faith 14.2). We abide in Christ by exercising faith in Him, and nothing else, not family connections, moral strivings, or religious experiences.

In addition, true faith does not seek Christ in the realm of personal subjectivity. Rather, it is genuine, Spirit-wrought faith that clings to Christ through the objective means of the Word of God, sacraments, and prayer. God has attached His gospel promises to these means, and through them He communicates Christ and all of His saving benefits to His people (Westminster Shorter Catechism 88).

The early church believed this, that is why they were steadfastly "devoted to the apostles' teaching, the fellowship, the breaking of bread, and the prayers" (Acts 2:42). To abide in Jesus is to devote ourselves to the ordinary means of grace.

When Christians sit attentively under the faithful reading and preaching of the Scriptures, they abide in Christ. We meet Christ in the Word. Indeed, in His Word, Jesus lays hold of us and we lay hold of Him. We abide in His love when we believe His gospel promises and obey His holy commands (John 15:10). We also abide in Christ when we partake of the Lord's Supper, a clear expression of our union with Christ (1 Cor. 10:16-17). It is at the table that His promises are confirmed to our hearts, and we abide in His unrelenting love.

Finally, we abide in Christ when we pray (Heb. 4:14-16). In prayer, we humbly throw ourselves into the arms of our beloved Saviour. Therefore, dear Christian, abide in Christ. Devote yourself afresh to the means by which He promises to give you Himself.

## HYMN

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide  
The darkness deepens Lord, with me abide  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee  
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day  
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away  
Change and decay in all around I see  
O Thou who changest not, abide with me

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless  
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness  
Where is death's sting?  
Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me

## PRAYER

Lord Jesus, we thank you that because you are the same today, you stand among us in your risen power, and we pray now that you would draw near to us that we may have fellowship all together with you and yet marvellously, mysteriously each of us have fellowship with you as though we were the only person in the world who really mattered to you. Receive all our praise, for Jesus' sake, 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.**

## 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](http://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).



# LADIES BIBLE STUDY WORSHIP

The ladies are meeting in the Church Hall on Wednesdays at 1.30pm for approximately an hour. We have been looking at the Apostles' Creed. On Wednesday 6th October, I believe in Salvation will be the topic for study and discussion. Please come along to find out more about the Christian Faith in action. Morag Steele sends her thanks for the generous donation of £50 to her Challenge "Miles for Refugees" organised by Red Cross. Morag walked 160 miles during September to help refugees arriving in our country from all over the world. She has smashed her target several times over and has over £800. Thank you ladies.

## GUILD

The next meeting of the Guild will take place in the Church hall on Monday 4th October at 2pm (PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE FROM THE TIME GIVEN IN THE SYLLABUS). We will be looking at the new projects which we are invited to support over the next three years, and considering how we can do this.

Even with appropriate distancing there is plenty of room in the hall, so please do consider coming along, whether you have ever been a member of the Guild or not. Remember to wrap up warmly, as doors and/or windows will be open, and bring a cup if you would like tea or coffee.

## 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](http://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](http://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](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.

## 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.