

12TH DECEMBER 2021

FERINTOSH PARISH CHURCH

WORSHIP AT HOME



www.ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk

"Do you not feel, my brethren, that the gospel of God is peace to man? Where else can peace be found but in the message of Jesus?"
(C. H. Spurgeon)

Christmas at Ferintosh Parish Church

- Friday 24th December - **Watchnight Service at 11.30pm**
- Saturday 25th December - **Christmas Day Service at 11am**
- Sunday 26th December - **Sunday Service at 11am**
- Sunday 2nd January - **Communion Service at 11am**

All Welcome



PARAPHRASE 52

*1 Ye who the name of Jesus bear,
his sacred steps pursue;
and let that mind which was in him
be also found in you.*

*2 His greatness he for us abased,
for us his glory veiled;
in human likeness dwelt on earth,
his majesty concealed:*

*3 Nor only as a man appears,
but stoops a servant low;
submits to death, nay, bears the cross,
in all its shame and woe.*

*4 Hence God this generous love to all
with honours just hath crowned,
and raised the name of Jesus far
above all names renowned.*

PRAYER

Our gracious God and heavenly Father, we thank you that you know us through-and-through and that your word is able, first to find us and then to speak to us and then to transform us. We pray that by the power of your Holy Spirit this book that we read will live for us today in the grace and through the teaching of our Saviour, our Lord Jesus Christ. We come to you, our eyes are upon you, our hearts are full of affection for you, our wills bowed before you and we say to you, Speak, Lord, for your servants are listening. This we pray in Jesus name.

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 1: 1 - 14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe.

8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

SERMON

The incarnation is a deep mystery as we cannot fully understand how God could take on our humanity without giving up any of His deity, and yet this is the truth of the scriptures. We can, however, understand that the incarnation reveals God's infinite love and grace. He did not leave us alone in our sin but entered into the misery of this fallen world without becoming a sinner Himself in order to rescue us from the wages of sin. We will never tire of thanking and praising God for this throughout all eternity.

Justification by faith alone via the imputation of Christ's righteousness to the believer and the non-imputation of sin to those who rest only on Jesus for salvation is the focus of the Good News of the Gospel.

HYMN

The obedience that Jesus offered to His Father makes up what is referred to in systematic theology as the work of Christ. However, this work was done by a person, namely, the Son of God, so we cannot separate the person of Christ from what He did. Therefore, we should briefly consider Jesus' identity as the incarnate God-man, the one who is truly God and truly human. When we speak of the incarnation, we are speaking of an event that took place in time. At a particular point in history, God the Son—the second person of the Holy Trinity—took on a human nature without subtracting from Himself any of His divine attributes (John 1:1-14).

In Christ the whole fullness of deity is pleased to dwell, and this will be so for all eternity (Col. 1:19-20; Heb. 13:8). Yet while the incarnation took place in time, it has its foundation in eternity past in what we call the covenant of redemption, that commitment by the members of the Godhead to one another to send the Son to bear the divine wrath in order to effect reconciliation in the Spirit between the Father and His elect people (John 17).

Paul gives us some of the most profound reflections on the incarnation in the entire New Testament. Philippians 2:5-11 tells us that the Son of God did not consider His equality with God as something to be used solely for His own advantage at the expense of others; instead, He voluntarily condescended and took the form of a servant and became "obedient to the point of death, even death on the cross" (v. 8).

In this condescension, our Saviour did not surrender any divine attributes such as omniscience or omnipotence, though He did veil His glory. Without giving up His glory, He chose not to fully manifest it to all who saw Him as He walked the earth. But this veiling was only temporary. On account of His work, God exalted the God-man Christ Jesus, rewarding Him for His obedience and revealing Him as the source of eternal salvation for all who believe (vv. 9-11).

Who is he born in the stall,
at whose feet the shepherds fall?
Who is he in deep distress,
fasting in the wilderness?

Refrain:
'Tis the Lord, O wondrous story!
'Tis the Lord, the King of glory!
At his feet we humbly fall,
crown him, crown him, Lord of all!

Who is he the people bless
for his words of gentleness?
Who is he to whom they bring
all the sick and sorrowing? [Refrain]

Who is he that stands and weeps
at the grave where Lazarus sleeps?
Who is he the gath'ring throng
greet with loud triumphant song? [Refrain]
Lo! at midnight, who is he
prays in dark Gethsemane?
Who is he upon the tree
dies in grief and agony? [Refrain]

Who is he that from the grave
comes to heal and help and save?
Who is he that from his throne
rules thro' all the world alone? [Refrain]

PRAYER

*Gracious God,
our hearts praise you for the wonder
of your love in Jesus.
He is heaven's darling, but is to us
the incarnate, despised, rejected,
crucified sin-bearer;
O Father, we adore you for your great love
in the gift of Jesus,
O Jesus, we bless you for resigning your life for ours,
O Holy Spirit, we thank you for revealing to us
this mystery.
May we never give you rest until Christ is
The pulse of our heart;
The spokesman of our lips,
The lamp of our feet.
Accept Christ's worthiness for our unworthiness,*

*His sinlessness for our transgressions,
His meekness for our pride,
His fulness for our emptiness,
His glory for our shame,
His death for our life,
In Jesus Name we pray, Amen.
(Prayer from 'A collection of puritan prayers')*

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 final study of this year will take place on Wednesday 15th December in the Church Hall at 1.30pm for approximately an hour. We will conclude the study of the book of Galatians. This is entitled "The Family of Believers" with subsections Living in the Spirit, Investing in the Word of God and The New Creation. Do come along and join this fellowship studying God's Word for today. A warm welcome awaits.

HIGHLAND FOODBANK

As always your donations are so welcome and so necessary. The usual non-perishable goods are required most but, with the festive season coming soon, maybe a little treat could go into your trolley as well as the necessities. I know you have been so generous throughout the year and the Foodbank is so thankful to have supporters like you. Please help the most vulnerable this Christmas.

WORSHIP

Sunday morning worship takes place at 11.00am 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.

GIFT DAY UPDATE

Our new updated total for Gift Day is £9595.00. Very many thanks to everyone who has contributed to this magnificent sum.

SCOUTS CHRISTMAS POST

Conon and Maryburgh Scouts would like to thank everyone who made use of the Scout Post service this year. A total of £170.15 was raised for Group funds so our grateful thanks to all who contributed.