

5TH DECEMBER 2021

FERINTOSH PARISH CHURCH

WORSHIP AT HOME



www.ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk

"This is what is meant by 'Thy king cometh.' You do not seek him, but he seeks you. You do not find him, he finds you" (Martin Luther)

HYMN

Come, Thou precious Ransom, come,
Only Hope for sinful mortals!
Come, O Saviour of the world!
Open are to Thee all portals.
Come, Thy beauty let us see;
Anxiously we wait for Thee.

Enter now my waiting heart,
Glorious King and Lord most holy.
Dwell in me and ne'er depart,
Though I am but poor and lowly.
Ah, what riches will be mine
When Thou art my Guest Divine!

My hosannas and my palms
Graciously receive, I pray Thee;
Evermore, as best I can,
Saviour, I will homage pay Thee,
And in faith I will embrace,
Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.

Hail, hosanna, David's Son!
Help, Lord, hear our supplication!
Let Thy kingdom, sceptre, crown,
Bring us blessing and salvation,
That forever we may sing:
Hail, hosanna! to our King.

PRAYER

Father, we praise You that in Your kindness You have spoken Your Word of incredible power through human means to all our hearts. May the eyes of faith see You and our hearts embrace You and may we reach out to You in love and receive the great promises of the Gospel. Be pleased, we pray, to cause us to know that today we heard You. We ask this in Jesus mighty 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 PHILIPPIANS 2: 8 - 11

8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.
9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,
10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,
11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

SERMON

Over the past two thousand years, more people have known the name of Jesus than any other name. Since AD 33, over eight billion people, by one estimate, have claimed to be followers of this Jesus. Billions more have heard of His name. Today, the name of Jesus can be found in more than six thousand languages, and more are being added every year.

On the one hand, it's strange that this single name has dominated the past two thousand years of world history, especially Western history. For most of us, the name Jesus has a sacred ring to it; it sounds holy and divine. But this wasn't the case when Mary and Joseph followed the angel's instructions and gave their baby His name.

Jesus was named "Jesus" by design. In Greek, it is Iēsous; in Aramaic, the language Jesus spoke, Yesu. Both are derived from the Hebrew, in which the name is Yeshua or Joshua.

Joshua is made up of two parts: Ya, which is short for Yahweh, and hoshea, which means "salvation." Hence, Mary and Joseph gave their little baby the name Jesus — "Yahweh saves."

That He does! Ever since the first Christmas, Jesus has been more than just a name. It's been our only comfort in life and in death, our only hope in a hopeless world. When you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, you have life in His name (John 20:31). There is, in fact, no other name under heaven given among men whereby we can be saved (Acts 4:12). So, naturally, whatever we do, in word or deed, we ought to do in the name of the Lord Jesus (Col. 3:17). "God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil. 2:9-11).

But let's be clear: the name of Jesus is not a magic wand. Chanting it does not give you special powers. The power in the name is the person behind the name. In biblical times, names meant something. They were more than badges of identification. They often told others who you were and what purpose God had for your life. Therefore, Adam was the first man. Eve was the mother of all living things. Abraham was the father of many nations. Benjamin was the son of his father's right hand. Moses was drawn out of the water. Peter was the rock. Barnabas was the son of encouragement.

What about Jesus? "And you shall call his name Jesus," the angel told Joseph, "for he will save his people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21). More than a great teacher, more than an enlightened man, more than a worker of miracles, more than a source of meaning in life, more than a self-help guru, more than a self-esteem builder, more than a political liberator, more than a caring friend, more than a transformer of cultures, more than a purpose for the purposeless, Jesus is the Saviour of sinners.

Two well-known hymns remind us of this Great Name. *"Jesus the name that charms our fears and bids our sorrows cease; 'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life and health and peace."*

And, *"All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall. Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all."*

We are reminded again this Advent season that there really is something wonderful about that Name. No, not just something; make that everything!!!

HYMN

Lift up the Advent strain!
Behold the Lord is nigh!
Greet His approach, ye saints, again.
With hymns of holy joy.

The everlasting Son
Incarnate deigns to be;
Our God the form of slave puts on,
A race of slaves to free.

Daughter of Sion, rise
To meet thy lowly King!
Nor let the faithless heart despise
The peace He comes to bring.

As Judge, in clouds of light,
He shall come down again,
And all His scattered saints unite
With Him in heaven to reign.

Before that dreadful day
May all our sins be gone,
The old man all be put away,
The new man all put on.

Jesu, all praise to Thee,
Our joy and endless rest:
We pray Thee here our guide to be.
Our crown amid the blest. Amen.

PRAYER

*Heavenly Father, streams upon streams of love
overflow our path,
Thou hast made us out of nothing,
Hast recalled us from the far country,
Hast translated us from ignorance to knowledge,
From darkness to light,
From death to life,
From folly to wisdom,
From error to truth,
From sin to victory.*

*Thanks be to thee for the comfort of thy Word,
For the ordinances of thy church,
For the teaching of thy Spirit,
For Christian fellowship.
Our heaven-born faith gives promise to
eternal sight,
Our new birth a pledge of never-ending life.
We draw near to thee, knowing thou wilt draw
near to us.
We bless and adore thee, the eternal God,
For the comforts of these thoughts,
The joys of these hopes,
Have mercy on us, we pray in Jesus name,
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

On Wednesday 8th December at 1.30pm in the Church Hall, we will continue to study Galatians chapter 5. Hopefully we will also make a start to the final chapter with the study entitled "The Family of Believers". A warm welcome awaits anyone who'd like to join us for approximately an hour.

HIGHLAND FOODBANK

Lorna Dempster, Foodbank manager, sent a thank you letter for our donations at Harvest time. At the time of Harvest we sent 83kgs of food. (for those still working in old money, that's just over 13 stones!) This is wonderful. However, we need to keep donating because the vulnerable in our society still need our help. Please add a little something to your shopping trolley each week to keep the supplies up. Every donation is made use of and is necessary. The box is still in the vestibule as you enter the church, just beside the hand sanitiser.

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.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

We share in the good news that Invergordon Parish Church have a candidate who is preaching Sole Nominee on Sunday 5 December. As Stephen is the Interim Moderator of the congregation, he has to attend the service at Invergordon to oversee the voting process for the new minister. In his place we are delighted to welcome Rev Robert Adair (Alness Baptist Church) who will lead the morning service at 11am here at Ferintosh Parish Church. Robert is an excellent preacher and we look forward to his ministry on Sunday morning. Please Keep the Invergordon congregation in your prayers at this time.

GIFT DAY

Our new total for Gift Day is now £9305.00. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to this marvellous total. Thank you so much...