

16TH JANUARY 2022

FERINTOSH PARISH CHURCH

WORSHIP AT HOME



www.ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk

"Human nature's way of salvation is, "do, do do." But God's way of salvation is, "done, done; it is all done." You have but to rely by faith on the atonement which Christ accomplished on the cross."

(C. H. Spurgeon)

HYMN

Jesus, keep me near the cross,
There a precious fountain,
Free to all—a healing stream,
Flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

*In the cross, in the cross,
Be my glory ever;
From the cross my ransomed soul
Nothing then shall sever.*

Near the cross, a trembling soul,
Love and mercy found me;
There the Bright and Morning Star
Sheds its beams around me.

Near the cross! O Lamb of God,
Bring its scenes before me;
Help me walk from day to day,
With its shadow o'er me.

Near the cross I'll watch and wait,
Hoping, trusting ever,
Till I see my Savior's face,
Leave His presence never.

PRAYER

Gracious Lord, Your Name is love, in love receive our prayer. Look to the cross of Your beloved Son and view the preciousness of His atoning blood; Listen to His never-failing intercession, and speak to our hearts, 'your sins are forgiven, be of good cheer.'

Give to us more and more to prize the privilege of prayer, to find pardon in Christ, to converse with You; to know You in prayer as the path in which our feet tread, the latch upon the door of our lips, the marrow of our understanding, the strength of our will, the power of our affection and the sweetness of our memory.

May the matter of our prayer be always wise, humble, scriptural, Christ-like. Give Your people unwavering faith that our prayers are never in vain. You have given us the greatest gift, the person of Your Son, and in Him You will give us all we need. (Prayer from 'A collection of puritan prayers')



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

1 CORINTHIANS 1: 10 - 18

10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

11 For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you.

12 Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ."

13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

14 I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius,

15 lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name.

16 Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other.

17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.

18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

SERMON

Divisions plagued the first-century Corinthian church as various factions appealed to their associations with noted figures in order to advance themselves in the church. The only solution for the Corinthians, Paul explains, was the preaching of the gospel of the cross of Christ. However important baptism may be, however meaningful one's personal associations, none of these factors is of first importance (1 Cor. 1:10-17). The saving power of the cross does not depend on eloquent rhetoric (v. 17). Indeed, it cannot, as many commentators note. When emphasis is placed on impressing people with eloquent gifts of speech, the cross cannot cut across all human divisions. The Christian message will remain limited to the educated, which in first-century Corinth was the upper class. The problem with focusing on cleverness in speech is that such speech can win the mind, will, and emotions without converting the soul, as one commentator notes. Some may focus on communication style in such a way as to attract vast audiences. But to focus on this at the expense of the gospel is to labour in our own power and not the power of Christ crucified.

Our only hope is the "word of the cross," which is the proclamation of the events of the cross and their meaning. It is the doctrine of the cross, the truth of Christ's substitutionary atonement that turns away the wrath of God and rescues us from sin, Satan, and death (Rom. 3:21-26; Col. 2:13-15). As one commentator said, "the doctrine of the cross alone is effectual to salvation."

In 1 Corinthians 1:18, the Apostle Paul stresses the power of the cross by stating that the "word of the cross" is folly to those who are perishing but the "power of God" for those who are being saved. This statement shows that our response to the cross is determined by our spiritual state. Only those who are "being saved" will believe the gospel message. Here we have evidence that regeneration precedes faith, that we must be born again by the sovereign work of the Holy Spirit and granted a new heart receptive to the things of God before we will trust Christ.

At the same time, regeneration comes mysteriously through the preaching of the Word. We are "brought . . . forth by the word of truth" (James 1:18). As the gospel is faithfully proclaimed, the Holy Spirit works through the word of the cross to move us to believe that word. This word of the cross also sustains us in salvation, enabling our perseverance in the faith.



The word of the cross is crucial for salvation and growth in grace. We neglect it at our peril. What this means is that we never go beyond our need for the cross. We can go deeper in our understanding of what the cross accomplished, but we never go beyond the word of the cross. Therefore, the atonement must remain central in our study and in the preaching of our churches.

HYMN

Alas, and did my Saviour bleed?
And did my Sovereign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
For such a worm as I?

*At the cross, at the cross where
I first saw the light,
And the burden of my heart rolled away,
It was there by faith I received my sight,
And now I am happy all the day!*

Was it for sins that I had done
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity! grace unknown!
And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide,
And shut His glories in,
When Christ, the mighty Maker, died
For man, His creature's sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face
While His dear cross appears.
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
And melt mine eyes to tears.

But drops of grief can ne'er repay
The debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away,
'Tis all that I can do.

PRAYER

Father in heaven, we thank You that the very substance of the covenant is Christ and His righteous obedience for His people even to death on a cross. We thank You, our God, that Christ is the all sufficient Saviour and His righteousness is an all sufficient righteousness.

May we not be blinded to the beauty of Christ, hardened against the gospel, or depending on anything but the merits of Christ for our acceptance with God. Bless Your Word, oh Lord, we pray. Keep Your hand upon us all and let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us. We pray that Your grace and mercy and peace will be the abiding portion of all Your people both this day and evermore. We ask in Jesus' precious name, Amen.

CHURCH FLOWERS

Due to Covid restrictions it is preferred that the flowers are put into the church on the Saturday morning between 11am-11.30 while the church is being cleaned. Please remember to wear a mask while within the church.

However, access is also possible earlier or later on the Saturday, or on the Friday if more convenient but please contact Martin McLauchlan and inform him you have been in the church and when (for NHS Test and Protect records). Please also remove the flowers from the church either immediately after the morning service or within the next day or two, but once again, please tell Martin that you have been in the church and when (again for recording the visit for NHS Test and Protect). Contact Jeannette Cameron for any further information. 01463 870416

If necessary, the Church key can be collected from Isabel MacDonald, 3 Rosshill Drive Maryburgh, 01349 861767. Please return key to Isabel.

FLOWER ROTA

JANUARY

Organiser – Mrs M Wilson 861233

16th Mrs M Wilson
23rd
30th

FEBRUARY

Organiser – Mrs J Cameron 01463 870416

6th Mrs K Campbell
13th Mrs J Steele
20th Mrs MacKinnon
27th Mrs E Munro

MARCH

Organiser – Mrs P Chata 863801

6th Mrs S MacKenzie
13th Mrs P Chata
20th Mrs C Parry
27th Mrs I Thomson

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.

SESSION CLERK'S HOLIDAY

The Session Clerk is on holiday until 24th January. The Evening Zoom Service is at 6.30pm and will be hosted by Mrs. Elizabeth Blackburn until the Session Clerk returns.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

The ladies will meet in the Church Hall on Wednesday 19th January at 1.30pm. This will be reviewed after the latest Covid update on 17th January.

We will look at "Breaking Through to Spiritual Maturity" and specifically "Why be a captive when you can be free?" Do come along and try this group for yourself. You'd be most welcome. Covid 19 measures will be in place to try to keep us safe.

HIGHLAND FOODBANK

Please remember to add a little something to your shopping list to donate to the foodbank. Long life milk and juice, tinned meats and potatoes, easy cook rice are very welcome as are toiletries, washing powder (small size) and household cleaners. Thank you for thinking about the plight of the most vulnerable in our area.