

2ND JANUARY 2022

FERINTOSH PARISH CHURCH

WORSHIP AT HOME



www.ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk

"Resolution 1: I will live for God. Resolution 2: If no one else does I still will." (Jonathan Edwards)

HYMN

1 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

2 Under the shadow of your throne
your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is your arm alone,
and our defence is sure.

3 Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting you are God,
to endless years the same.

4 A thousand ages in your sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
soon bears us all away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home!

PRAYER

*Length of days does not profit me
Except the days are passed in Thy presence, in
Thy service to Thy glory.*

*Give me a grace that precedes, follows, guides,
sustains*

*Sanctifies, aids every hour,
That I might not be one moment apart from Thee,
But may rely on thy Spirit*

To supply every thought,

Speak every word,

Direct every step,

Prosper every work,

Build up every mote of faith,

And give me a desire

To show forth Thy praise,

Testify Thy love,

Advance Thy kingdom.

*I launch my bark on the unknown waters of this
year,*

With Thee, O Father, as my harbour,

Thee O Son, at my helm,

Thee O Holy Spirit, filling my sails.

Guide me to heaven with my loins girt,

My lamp burning,

My ear open to thy calls,

My heart full of love, my soul free.

Give me Thy grace to sanctify me,

Thy comforts to cheer me,

Thy wisdom to teach,

Thy right hand to guide,

Thy counsel to instruct,

Thy law to judge,

Thy presence to stabilize.

May Thy fear be my awe,

Thy triumphs my joy.

(Valley of Vision: 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

EXODUS 6: 2 - 8

2 And God spoke to Moses and said to him: "I am the Lord.

3 I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by My name Lord I was not known to them.

4 I have also established My covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, in which they were strangers.

5 And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel whom the Egyptians keep in bondage, and I have remembered My covenant.

6 Therefore say to the children of Israel: 'I am the Lord; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.

7 I will take you as My people, and I will be your God. Then you shall know that I am the Lord your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.

8 And I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and I will give it to you as a heritage: I am the Lord.' "

SERMON

I remember quite vividly from my early childhood a curious impulse that I developed at the closing of one year and the coming of the next. From the anticipation and excitement that I saw in others around me, and perhaps from a measure of media hype, I had a sense that at midnight on New Year's Eve, something truly amazing would happen, something that would totally transform things, something worth celebrating in the biggest way. You might say I was experiencing my first encounter with the sense of futility that the Preacher of Ecclesiastes discusses: "What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun" (1:9).

I don't know just why I had this childhood expectation that a new year might bring a new beginning. But in myself as well as in others, I have often found that same hope emerging when something new is going to happen: a new car, a new house, a new job, or even just a new diet and exercise regime. Yet, the bells of the new year may sound, and the crowd may cheer, but what has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun — or so it seems.

As we enter into another new year, probably for all of us there is that longing for things that are new, for a life that is new. Our hopes are kindled high by the promises of another new year. But looking back on previous years, we have known that desire before. Where can we go for satisfaction of that desire? Where can that which is new and lasting really be found?

The exodus of the people of Israel from Egypt marked a whole new beginning for them, one that would deserve annual commemoration in full. It stood at the head of the new year: "This month shall be for you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year for you" (Ex. 12:2). It marked the transition from slavery to freedom, from days of oppression in a foreign land to life as possessors in the Promised Land. At the heart of this great deliverance was the promise of God to Abraham, the blessing to him and to his descendants after him that they would become exceedingly numerous and inherit the land flowing with milk and honey. The fulfilment of this promise was advancing. Time, as it were, began there. It was the birth of a new day, a new era, a new nation.

So pivotal was this event in God's revelation of Himself to Israel that the meaning of His personal name is tied to the exodus (6:2-8). In those great acts of love and deliverance, "the Lord" was revealing Himself in ways that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob never knew (v. 3). By those acts, Israel would know that He is the Lord (v. 7). By those same acts, Egypt would know that He is the Lord (7:5). Moses would later say that nothing like this had ever happened before (Deut. 4:32-40).

Though the course of the ages afterward, and Israel's repeated failures, seemed to mock the new beginning made in the exodus, yet the events of those days truly did mark a new beginning, or perhaps we might better say, foretold a new beginning. The Passover feast prophesied a greater exodus. It spoke of the Lamb who, in future days, would take away the sin of the world. **It found its fulfilment in Christ, who transformed that feast into a remembrance of Himself until He comes to make all things new.** My childhood longing lives on. It was no futile hope because we have the unchanging Gospel hope. Thanks be to God.

HYMN

1 All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown,
he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

WORSHIP

2 Human pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power,
hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.

3 God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light, and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore
from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.

4 Daily doth th' Almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand
at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.

5 Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call
one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.

PRAYER

Great God of heaven, we thank you so much that you are a God full of wonder and that when we see you with the eye of faith, we are filled with awe. We bow before you in worship, like John in Revelation, or like Isaiah in the throne room, or like Job in the last chapter of his book. Help us to worship you in awe, in wonder, in joy, and may we be enabled to say together, "His name is Wonderful." In Jesus' name we pray. 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.

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.

Please continue to take care and stay safe.

EVENING ZOOM SERVICE

The 6.30pm Sunday Evening Zoom Services will not take place on 2nd January. They will hopefully restart on Sunday, 9th January at 6.30pm.

STAMP APPEAL

Please remember to retain your postage stamps for now and Janet Winchester will arrange to collect them in the new year or they can be given to her directly.

AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR

The Community Council in Maryburgh has recently purchased a Heart Defibrillator and it is now located by the main entrance to the Maryburgh Hall.

HIGHLAND FOODBANK

As you may have seen on the news, the need for foodbanks has never been greater. Please continue to support our local one as you shop by putting a little extra into your trolley. Non-perishable goods are accepted such as tinned meat, vegetables and rice. Toiletries and cleaning materials are most welcome too. Thank you for your continued generous support.

FREEWILL OFFERING ENVELOPES

If anyone would like to start using Freewill offering envelopes these, a very useful way of remembering the Church when numbers are restricted, please contact Hugh Steele.

SHELTER SCOTLAND COLLECTION

The sum of £224.50 was raised through the Collections at our Watch-night and Christmas Morning Services and a cheque for this amount has been sent to them. To everyone who contributed, thank you so much.