

27TH FEBRUARY 2022

FERINTOSH PARISH CHURCH

WORSHIP AT HOME



www.ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk

"The Lord forsaketh not his flock, his chosen generation; he is their refuge and their rock, their peace and their salvation. As with a mother's tender hand he leads his own, his chosen band, to God all praise and glory!" (Johann Shutz)

HYMN

1 Jesus, priceless treasure,
source of purest pleasure,
friend most sure and true:
long my heart was burning,
fainting much and yearning,
thirsting, Lord, for you.
Yours I am, O spotless Lamb,
so will I let nothing hide you,
seek no joy beside you!

2 Let your arms enfold me:
those who try to wound me
cannot reach me here.
Though the earth be shaking,
every heart be quaking,
Jesus calms my fear.
Fires may flash and thunder crash;
yea, though sin and hell assail me,
Jesus will not fail me.

3 Hence, all worldly treasure!
Jesus is my pleasure,
Jesus is my choice.
Hence, all empty glory!
What to me your story
told with tempting voice?
Pain or loss or shame or cross
shall not from my Saviour move me,
since he chose to love me.

4 Banish thoughts of sadness,
for the Lord of gladness,
Jesus, enters in;
though the clouds may gather,
those who love the Saviour
still have peace within.
Though I bear much sorrow here,
still in you lies purest pleasure,
Jesus, priceless treasure!

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, as we come now to the Scriptures, we pray for your blessing. Illuminate these words to our minds and hearts and affections. Draw us, once again, to yourself, we pray, and grant that in our time of study together, that we might have that sense when our hearts are strangely warmed by the overtures of the Gospel. We ask it for Jesus' 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

HEBREWS 13: 7 - 16

7 Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.

8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

9 Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them.

10 We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat.

11 For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp.

12 Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate.

13 Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach.

14 For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come.

15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

16 But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

SERMON



Immediately after reminding us that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Heb. 13:8), the author of Hebrews in today’s passage moves into a warning against strange teachings. This movement is quite natural, for the only way we will remain grounded in the truth of Christ is if we are convinced that Christ and His teaching are unchanging. Because Jesus never changes, we need never stop holding on to Him, for He is a steadfast rock on whom we can stand in all the storms of life.

We do not need to find something different from or in addition to the truth of Christ. The truth of Christ gives us everything we need to live faithful lives in this present day. As John Owen comments, “A constant clinging to the truth about the person and work of Christ will stop us from listening to various strange teachings that damage our souls.”

Hebrews 13:9 can apply to any teaching at odds with what we find in the biblical Christ; however, this verse indicates that the specific teaching in mind here has to do with eating and drinking.

The author tells us that our hearts are strengthened by grace, not by foods, which implies that at least some people in his original audience believed that they could find spiritual strengthening in what they ate and drank. We cannot be certain of the specific content of this false teaching. Some commentators believe that the audience of Hebrews, like people in other New Testament churches, believed that only certain foods were holy and acceptable to Christians (see Rom. 14:1-4).

Other scholars think that the author of Hebrews is warning here about the old covenant sacrifices. In this case, Hebrews 13:9 is a further warning against apostasy for the original audience, for going back to the old covenant sacrifices, some of which were eaten by the worshiper, would be to abandon the grace available in the once-for-all sacrifice of Christ (see Ex. 12:1-28; Heb. 10:10). The second option is perhaps slightly more likely, but we do not know for sure.

In either case, the basic point for us is the same. Salvation and the spiritual strength that attends it do not come through anything but the grace of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Following a specific diet will not redeem us. Looking for hope in other saviours will do us no good. Only Jesus, to whom nothing can be added, is our salvation. We can be made right with God only through receiving and resting in Him alone, by placing our faith only in Him. Salvation is *solus Christus*—in Christ alone (Eph. 2:8-10).

HYMN

1 Sing praise to God who reigns above,
the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation.
With healing balm my soul is filled
and every faithless murmur stilled:
To God all praise and glory.

2 The Lord is never far away,
but through all grief distressing,
an ever present help and stay,
our peace and joy and blessing.
As with a mother's tender hand,
God gently leads the chosen band:
To God all praise and glory.

3 Thus all my toilsome way along,
I sing aloud thy praises,
that earth may hear the grateful song
my voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart,
both soul and body bear your part:
To God all praise and glory.

4 Let all who name Christ's holy name
give God all praise and glory;
let all who own his power proclaim
aloud the wondrous story!
Cast each false idol from its throne,
for Christ is Lord, and Christ alone:
To God all praise and glory.

PRAYER

Father, we thank you. Thank you for this passage. Thank you for this wonderful extraordinary truth. We pray that we might grasp it, listen to it, remember it, and all 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.

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

KIRK SESSION

The next meeting of the Kirk Session will be on Thursday 3rd March at 7.00pm and it will meet in the Church Hall. Minutes and Agendas will be circulated shortly.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The 2022 WorldDay of Prayer will be celebrated on Friday 4th March. The Service has been prepared by the Christian Women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland (for historical reasons Scotland has a separate national committee). The theme is: "I know the Plans I have for You".

Unfortunately it has not been possible to arrange a service for the Dingwall area this year, but anyone who would like to attend is assured of a warm welcome at either of the following services:

Church of Scotland, Strathpeffer (uphill from the Pavillion, and on the opposite side of the main road through the village) 7pm.

Culbokie Church Centre (in the former Primary School, on the left of the main road through the village heading east, before the Findon hall) 7.30pm. If you would like to attend and require or can offer transport, please contact Janet Winchester (01349 865308)

There will also be an on-line service on Zoom, arranged by the Scottish National Committee. This will start at 2.15pm, with the link open from 2pm.

Meeting ID 859 4166 8097
Passcode 432262

The link may not be publicised for reasons of safety, but can be forwarded by contacting Janet Winchester on cjw49@hotmail.co.uk

The service can also be accessed (audio only) by phoning **0131 460 1196**.

If you would like to follow the service on-line or by phone, or simply on your own, please contact Janet Winchester (see above) to request a booklet containing the Order of Service.

HIGHLAND FOODBANK

Highland Foodbank: Thank you from Lorna Dempster at the foodbank for your donations. It is still requiring tinned meats such as corned beef and cook-in sauce preferably not pasta sauce. Do think about the most vulnerable in our society and pop one or two items into the shopping basket for the foodbank. Thanks.

UKRAINE

The Faith Impact Forum of the Church of Scotland has been in regular dialogue with members of our partner church, the Reformed Church in Transcarpathia, Ukraine (Egyházkerület Kárpátaljai Református) and will continue to support them through prayer and advocacy.

The Church is also joining with the World Communion of Reformed Churches, the Lutheran World Federation, the Conference of European Churches, and World Council of Churches to work together to collectively support the churches and people of Ukraine in seeking a peaceful solution.

Lord Wallace, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, said: "Our prayers are with the Ukrainian people who are now under attack and in fear of their lives.

"We call on the UK Government to join with governments across the world and together persuade all parties to agree to a ceasefire and immediately return to the negotiating table.

"At the same time we ask the UK Government to prepare a generous humanitarian response to assist people fleeing the war.

"As a matter of urgency the government should prepare a plan to receive and resettle refugees from the conflict and support neighbouring countries to respond locally to the crisis.

"The Covid pandemic and the intensifying climate crisis has shown us that no catastrophe can be isolated and what affects one region affects all of us.

"More than ever, national governments need to find a way to work together for the sake of our common humanity."

The Moderator and Very Rev Dr Susan Brown, convener of the Faith Impact Forum, are inviting all of us to join them in praying for those who are suffering from the violence in Ukraine.



Prayer for Peace in Ukraine

O God, the refuge and strength of all,
You hold the people of Ukraine in the palm of your hand.
The name of each person there,
Is written on your heart.

In the darkness of invasion
And in the mire of political machinations,
Spread we pray, the light of hope and of justice
And of peace.
Encourage those who are frightened,
To find strength in you
And in those around them -
Near and far.

Help the worldwide family of nations
To respond in love
With outstretched hearts,
Open minds,
And with too, the wisdom needed
to effect a peace that lasts.

Save us we pray,
From not caring enough.
For your Son's sake.

GUILD

The next meeting of the Guild will take place in the Church hall on Monday 7th March at 2pm, when we hope to hear from Mr Rod Mackay on the work of Mission Aviation Fellowship. A warm welcome is extended to anyone who would like to know more about this worldwide Christian organisation. Unless anything changes in the meantime, the usual Covid mitigations will be in force.

HOLY COMMUNION

Next Sunday, the 6th March 2022, we will be celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion at our morning service in the church at 11.00am. Please book your seat for the service in the usual way.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

This week the meeting will take place at 17 Muirden Road Maryburgh. We will have some fellowship over a bowl of soup followed by the study. There is room for some more ladies. Do come along when a warm welcome will await you. We're meeting a bit earlier this week at 12.30.