

6TH FEBRUARY 2022

FERINTOSH PARISH CHURCH

WORSHIP AT HOME



www.ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk

"Being steadfast in belief does not exclude all temptations from without. When we say a tree is firmly rooted, we do not say the wind never blows upon it." (John Owen)

HYMN

We have heard the joyful sound:
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!
Spread the tidings all around:
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!
Bear the news to every land,
Climb the steeps and cross the waves;
Onward!—'tis our Lord's command;
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

Waft it on the rolling tide,
Jesus saves, Jesus saves;
Tell to sinners far and wide,
Jesus saves, Jesus saves;
Sing, ye islands of the sea,
Echo back, ye ocean caves;
Earth shall keep her jubilee,
Jesus saves, Jesus saves.

Sing above the battle's strife,
Jesus saves, Jesus saves;
By His death and endless life,
Jesus saves, Jesus saves;
Sing it softly thru the gloom,
When the heart for mercy craves,
Sing in triumph o'er the tomb,
Jesus saves, Jesus saves.

PRAYER

Father in heaven, we thank You for the promise, for the covenant of grace. 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. Lord, we ask in Jesus' precious name that You would give us sight to see the light of Christ. 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.

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 THESSALONIANS 2: 1 - 12

1 For you yourselves know, brethren, that our coming to you was not in vain.

2 But even after we had suffered before and were spitefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much conflict.

3 For our exhortation did not come from error or uncleanness, nor was it in deceit.

4 But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.

5 For neither at any time did we use flattering words, as you know, nor a cloak for covetousness—God is witness.

6 Nor did we seek glory from men, either from you or from others, when we might have made demands as apostles of Christ.

7 But we were gentle among you, just as a nursing mother cherishes her own children.

8 So, affectionately longing for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us.

9 For you remember, brethren, our labour and toil; for labouring night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, we preached to you the gospel of God.

10 You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe;

11 as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children,
12 that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

SERMON

In 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12, Paul describes his ministry as one of truth-telling not motivated by greed in order to counter charges that he taught error for the sake of financial gain. Having reminded the Thessalonians of the manner of his ministry among them, he begins a new section describing his thankfulness for the Thessalonians for how they responded to his ministry.

Paul begins this section by thanking God that the Thessalonians received the word he preached as the word of God, not the word of men (v. 13). In other words, the Thessalonians did not reject Paul's message but believed and obeyed it. Augustine of Hippo points out that Paul thanks the Lord for the Thessalonians' reception of the gospel because it was the Lord who enabled it: "God . . . is the one who brought it about that the Thessalonians, when they had received from the apostle the word by hearing it, received it not as the word of men but, as it truly is, as the word of God."

This word of God "is at work in you believers" (1 Thess. 2:13). Many commentators point out the Greek verb translated here as "work" is used elsewhere in the New Testament almost exclusively for God's working. Paul uses it specifically in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 for the Holy Spirit's empowerment of spiritual gifts in the people of God. We see, therefore, a close connection with the power of God and the word of God in today's passage, which emphasises that the Lord works in believers primarily through His word and Spirit.

In context, this word refers primarily to the gospel but can be extended to cover the Old Testament and the entire Apostolic tradition, or the New Testament. Putting this all together, we see that the Lord achieves His purposes in His people chiefly by using the Word of God—the Scriptures—to regenerate us, correct us, and build us up in the faith.

Moreover, He works through His Word continually over the course of a believer's life, for God is presently "at work in you believers" (1 Thess. 2:13).

Therefore, we should be dedicated students of Scripture, spending time regularly under its instruction. As question and answer 89 of the Westminster Shorter Catechism puts it, "The Spirit of God makes the reading, but especially the preaching, of the word, an effectual means of convincing and converting sinners, and of building them up in holiness and comfort, through faith, unto salvation."

The word of God at work in the Thessalonians (1 Thess. 2:13) was the message Paul preached to them. This indicates a close connection between the Spirit of God and the preaching of the Word of God. It is vital for us to sit regularly under the faithful preaching of God's Word by appointed elders, pastors, and teachers because that is where the Lord regularly chooses to do His work.

HYMN

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

*It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul. (*Refrain*)

My sin—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!—
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! (*Refrain*)

For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live:
If Jordan above me shall roll,
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul. (*Refrain*)

But, Lord, 'tis for Thee, for Thy coming we wait,
The sky, not the grave, is our goal;
Oh, trump of the angel! Oh, voice of the Lord!
Blessed hope, blessed rest of my soul! (*Refrain*)

And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul. *(Refrain)*

PRAYER

Our heavenly Father, we pray as You have given us Your Word with the strong consolation of its truth, with the assurance that through faith we are anchored to Jesus Christ, we pray that you would give to each of us a gracious sense that you desire that we should be absolutely convinced of the security that You give us through faith in our beloved Saviour. Thank You that You will work everything together for good for those who love You, are called according to your purpose since You did not spare your own Son, but have given Him up on the cross for us all. We believe that you will also with Him freely give us all things. Lead us into such assurance and its joy and its stability we pray for Jesus Christ our Saviour's 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.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Having concluded the study in Galatians, the members are looking to a new area to examine. This is called "Why be a captive when you can be free?" from Breaking through to Spiritual Maturity. We'd love to have you come along each Wednesday at 1.30pm to the Church Hall for approximately an hour. A warm welcome awaits.

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.

HIGHLAND FOODBANK

Donations of non-perishable food items such as tinned meat, vegetables and fruit as well as cleaning materials, toiletries and baby items are most welcome. Unfortunately, the Foodbank cannot accept fresh food. If you'd like to donate such items there are other charities which would accept them willingly such as Food Larders. Thank you for your generosity and look forward to your continued support.

GUILD

The Guild will meet in the Church hall on Monday 7th February at 2pm, when Paul Harrington of Inverness will speak on the topic "Climate Crisis - what more can we do?", referring both to individual actions and actions at the level of the congregation. Anyone interested in the Guild or the topic is most welcome to attend.

Covid mitigations are still required, so please wrap up warmly, wear a face covering, sanitise your hands on arrival, and bring a mug if you would like a cup of tea.

CHRISTIAN AID ON-LINE SUPPORTERS' GATHERING

Christian Aid is holding an on-line supporters' gathering on Tuesday 22 February from 10am to 12noon. The focus will be Christian Aid's work in South Sudan. For more information and to register to participate, email: edinburgh@christian-aid.org

RETIRING COLLECTION FOR HIV/AIDS PROGRAMME

Since we are still not able to enjoy our traditional Soup and Sweet lunch this year, the Kirk Session has agreed that a retiring offering will be taken up at the service on Sunday 13th February in aid of the Church of Scotland HIV/AIDS Programme, which has ongoing commitments in the UK and abroad to projects supporting those affected by HIV/AIDS. Anyone not able to be in Church who would like to contribute should give their donation to any Elder, or phone Janet Winchester (01349 865308) to arrange collection.