

13TH MARCH 2022

FERINTOSH PARISH CHURCH

WORSHIP AT HOME



www.ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk

"Power is God's hand or arm, omniscience is God's eye, mercy is God's delight, eternity is God's duration, but holiness is God's beauty!"
(Stephen Charnock)

HYMN

By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound-less;
My soul, be-lieve and doubt it not.
Why stag-ger at this word of prom-ise?
Has Scrip-ture ev-er false-hood taught?
No; then this word must true re-main:
By grace you too shall heaven ob-tain.

By grace! None dare lay claim to mer-it;
Our works and con-duct have no worth.
God in His love sent our Re-deem-er,
Christ Je-sus, to this sin-ful earth;
His death did for our sins a-tone,
And we are saved by grace a-lone.
By grace! O mark this word of prom-ise
When you are by your sins op-pressed,
When Sa-tan plagues your trou-bled con-science,
And when your heart is seek-ing rest.
What rea-son can-not com-pre-hend
God by His grace to you will send.

By grace! This ground of faith is cer-tain;
So long as God is true, it stands.
What saints have penned by in-spi-ra-tion,
What in His Word our God com-mands,
What our whole faith must rest up-on,
Is grace a-lone, grace in His Son.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we pray that you would be merciful on the people of Ukraine and Russia. Grant wisdom to world leaders to effectively stop evil. Allow for the truth to be known, for lies to be shown for what they are, and for evil-doers to be thwarted.

Lord, we pray for those who have already lost loved ones, homes, and livelihoods. Comfort and provide for the needs of those who have been displaced. Lord, we ask for mercy and we seek justice. We pray that you would be at worked in both.

We pray for the day when all wars will cease and when your peaceful reign will come fully. But in the meantime, we pray that you would use us to facilitate the coming of your kingdom here and now.

Help us to take action to bring peace, to care for the victims of war, and to work for justice. Help us to live according to the principles of your Kingdom today, and to remain faithful until your Kingdom comes fully at your return. Grant courage to your church in Russia, in Ukraine, and here to speak truth to power and to prophetically proclaim the truths of your Kingdom as well as the day of grace that still remains for those who repent.

Lord, we pray for Vladimir Putin. We pray that you would change his heart and work your miracle of salvation in his life. If he continues in his wicked ways, we pray that you would restrain his evil and have mercy on those who suffer because of it.

In all these things, we trust you, because you are our loving Father. We ask that you would keep us faithful by the power of your Spirit and that you would be with your church in Ukraine — that in times of war it would faithfully follow you and represent you before the nations. Heal the wounds, we pray, both physical and the wounds of the heart. Reconcile the nations with you and with each other by the power of the cross of our reigning Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

(Prayer by Rev. George DeVuyst serving missionary in Ukraine since 1998)

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 SERMON

HEBREWS 11:32 - 12:3

32 And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets:

33 who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

34 quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

35 Women received their dead raised to life again.

Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.

36 Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment.

37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—

38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, *in* dens and caves of the earth.

39 And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise,

40 God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

The book of Hebrews was written to a resilient group of Jewish Christians, persecuted believers who demonstrated Christlike endurance. The writer uses strong terms to describe their plight. For most of us, these descriptors are painful words rather than painful experiences. But for those who first read this message and for millions of Christians across the world today these words have the sting of the lash and the spit of hate about them.

The writer described in chapter 10 “a hard struggle with sufferings . . . publicly exposed to reproach and affliction . . . the plundering of your property” (vv. 32–34). Remarkably, their response to living as lambs among wolves was that of endurance, compassion, and joy. And yet, it is not surprising that these blows were taking a toll on these believers. They were weary, and a fear shadowed their days and lengthened their nights. Their confidence was slipping, and increasingly unanswered questions gave voice to their fear and exhaustion: “Is it worth it?” “Where is God in all this?”

But like a good trainer shouting encouragement to his runners to finish strong, the Word of the Lord to them and to us is this: “You have need of endurance” (v. 36). Endurance is a characteristic, a mark of saving faith. Faith is the confident expectation that God will keep His promises. And the enduring quality of saving faith is tested in adversity. The reminder that “you have need of endurance” is followed by a gallery of examples of those who “endured as seeing him who is invisible” (11:27) and confidently held that He would ultimately and lastingly keep His promise to save His people.

His promises were held on to by these faithful ones, even when they faced flood and fire and the walls of their world crashed down. His promises are true and worth holding on to when the walls of our world come crashing down too.

God’s choices to illustrate enduring faith in Hebrews 11 make up an uneven and unlikely assortment that ranges from Abraham the patriarch to Rahab the prostitute, but that’s because the chapter is not a hall of fame for displaying human greatness but rather one for displaying God’s grace. It’s as if everyone in Hebrews 11 is pointing to the next chapter.

They're all saying, "Look 'to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith'" (12:2), whose endurance and suffering on the cross secured our salvation and whose resurrection proved His promises are all true in this life and the next.

So, take heart today, we have need of endurance, but Jesus is with us always. Charles Spurgeon said this: "As for His failing you, never dream of it, hate the thought of it. The God who has been sufficient until now, should be trusted to the end."

HYMN

All praise to Thee, my God, this night,
For all the bless-ings of the light!
Keep me, O keep me, King of kings,
Be-neath Thine own al-might-y wings.
For-give me, Lord, for Thy dear Son,
The ill that I this day have done,
That with the world, my-self, and Thee,
I, when I sleep, at peace may be.

O may my soul on Thee re-pose,
And with sweet sleep mine eye-lids close,
Sleep that may me more vig-orous make
To serve my God when I a-wake.

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow;
Praise Him, all crea-tures here be-low;
Praise Him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host;
Praise Fa-ther, Son and Ho-ly Ghost.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your word. We ask for grace to do whatever it is you are asking us to do and to do it with joy and to do it with peace. We ask it all in Jesus' name. 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

STATED ANNUAL MEETING

We plan to hold our Stated Annual Meeting on Wednesday, 23rd March at 7pm in the Church Hall. Everyone is most welcome to attend. Light Refreshments will be available. The Stated Annual Meeting is normally held annually but for obvious reasons this years meeting will cover the last 3 years (2019, 2020 and 2021). We look forward to seeing you there.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Please note change of time for this coming week. The ladies will meet in the Church Hall on Wednesday 16th March at 12.45 for approximately an hour. We are looking at the Book of Joshua and will try to complete the study called "Be strong and Courageous" and follow on beginning the second study entitled "Crossing the Jordan". This book is proving to generate much discussion. and we'd love to have you with us. A very warm welcome awaits.

HIGHLAND FOODBANK

During March, we are asked to concentrate our donations of four items: tinned meat, long-life juice, tinned potatoes/ smash and cook-in sauce (not pasta sauce). Why not put one or two of these items in your shopping trolley this week to help the most vulnerable in our local area. Thank you all so much.

THE LEPROSY MISSION

If you have been collecting for The Leprosy Mission, or would like to make a donation to "make leprosy a thing of the past", please give your donation to Janet Winchester (01349 865308) by the end of March. Alternatively visit <https://leprosymission.scot> for information and to donate on-line.

The Leprosy Mission shop has a selection of Easter cards and seasonal gifts. Visit www.tlmtrading.com, or contact Janet Winchester (as above) to borrow the catalogue.

SUPPORT FOR THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE

We are surely all aghast at the suffering of Ukrainians, as portrayed daily by the media. In addition to our prayers, we may wonder how we can help. Now Very Rev Dr Susan Brown, Convener of the Church of Scotland's Faith Impact Forum, has written informing us that our Church has contact with The Reformed Church in Hungary, which, through its Reformed Church in Hungary Aid programme is directly involved in supporting those fleeing the war. They have indicated that the best way to provide practical help is to send money, with which they can buy locally the things people need.

Donations can be made via the Bank account below, and in view of the urgency of the situation all money received will be transferred daily to RCHA:

Royal Bank of Scotland
Church of Scotland No 1 Account
Account no 00134859
Sort Code 83 06 08

The Kirk Session, meeting on 3rd March, encourages anyone who is able, prayerfully to consider donating in this way.

Anyone who is unable to donate on-line or in person at any branch of the Royal Bank, may contact Janet Winchester (865308), who will assist in forwarding donations.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND HIV/AIDS PROGRAMME RETIRING COLLECTION

As a result of the retiring collection held on the 13th February, the sum of £138.80 was raised and a cheque for that amount has been sent to the Church of Scotland's HIV/AIDS Programme. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this very good result.