

20TH MARCH 2022

# FERINTOSH PARISH CHURCH

WORSHIP AT HOME



[www.ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk)

*"The Law saith, where is thy righteousness, goodness, and satisfaction?  
The Gospel saith, Christ is thy righteousness, goodness, and  
satisfaction."* (Patrick Hamilton)

# HYMN

God, whose giving knows no ending,  
from your rich and endless store:  
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,  
costly cross, grave's shattered door,  
gifted by you, we turn to you,  
offering up ourselves in praise;  
thankful song shall rise forever,  
gracious donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing  
toward the goals of Christ, your Son:  
all at peace in health and freedom,  
races joined, the Church made one.  
Now direct our daily labor,  
lest we strive for self alone;  
born with talents, make us servants  
fit to answer at your throne.

Treasure, too, you have entrusted,  
gain through powers your grace conferred;  
ours to use for home and kindred,  
and to spread the Gospel Word.  
Open wide our hands in sharing,  
as we heed Christ's ageless call,  
healing, teaching, and reclaiming,  
serving you by loving all.

## PRAYER

*Heavenly Father, We praise you! We acknowledge you as Lord. We thank you for the inexhaustible well of your love amid the arid deserts of this world. We thank you for Jesus Christ, who provides us with living water. And we thank you for your faithful, positive witnesses reaching into that well of love and sharing the water with others and with us. It is now our time and we too would draw deeply, and share with the thirsty of our time: with those forgotten and unloved; with those whose strength is unequal to their tasks; with those burdened by negative attitudes, or self-destruction; with those weighed down by guilt and shame; with those whose bodies are sick, whose minds are confused, whose spirits are broken; with those who are victims of violence, hunger, poverty, and insensitivity;*

*with all these thirsty brothers and sisters we would share the living water we have found, and point them to the never-ending source, the well-spring of life in Jesus Christ our Lord; in whose name we offer these prayers. Amen.*

*(Prayer by Rev. William Vander Beek, pastor in the Christian Reformed Church)*

## 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 JOHN 6: 16 - 21

16 Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea,  
17 got into the boat, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was already dark, and Jesus had not come to them.  
18 Then the sea arose because a great wind was blowing.  
19 So when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near the boat; and they were afraid.  
20 But He said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid."  
21 Then they willingly received Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land where they were going.

# SERMON

It was on the east side of the Sea of Galilee where Jesus fed the five thousand, and soon afterward He delivered His Bread of Life Discourse in Capernaum, which was on the west coast of the sea (John 6:1-14, 24). Today's passage describes how He and His disciples moved from one location to the other.

Initially, the disciples set out to cross the sea independently of Jesus. Jesus had withdrawn to the mountain, and the disciples set out by boat for Capernaum before Jesus returned to them (vv. 15-17). Geographically, the Sea of Galilee sits about six hundred feet below sea level, and the movement of air over the sea commonly results in violent and terrifying storms. Apparently, this is what happened when the disciples were rowing across the body of water, for a strong storm made the sea rough (v. 18). We should not quickly pass over this detail, for even the most seasoned seafarer could run into trouble when a storm broke out over the sea.

However, it was not the tremendous storm that caused the disciples the greatest fear. During the storm, they saw Jesus walking on the very sea itself, not being tossed and turned by the waves, and they became frightened (v. 19). The disciples saw on this occasion a glimpse of Jesus' deity, for who can walk on water? What is more, the ancient Jews regarded the sea as a terrifying enemy, unpredictable and something that only God could tame (Job 38:8-11). But when Jesus walked on the water and approached the boat, the storm immediately subsided, and the sea became calm (John 6:19-21). Clearly, the disciples were dealing with more than a mere man.

Jesus' own words to the disciples when He reached the boat help confirm this. Jesus told them not to fear. "It is I," Jesus said, which translates the phrase 'eg eimi', which is the Greek version of God's covenantal name 'I am'. This phrase appears frequently on the lips of Jesus in John's gospel, and it is a particularly strong hint at our Lord's deity. Jesus did things that only God can do and made claims that only God can make. This has applications for how we understand the true identity of Jesus.



After Jesus entered the boat, we read in verse 21 that the boat immediately reached the shore. This may suggest a miracle of some kind that caused it to travel several miles in only seconds, but in any case, ministry in Capernaum would soon begin in earnest.

Jesus calls us His friends (John 15:14-15), and that is a great privilege. However, we dare not forget that Jesus is no ordinary friend. He is the sovereign Lord and Creator of the universe, and although He loves us intimately and walks with us, we must nevertheless remember that we must also bow to Him as Lord.

## HYMN

1 Out of the depths I cry to Thee;  
Lord, hear me, I implore Thee!  
Bend down Thy gracious ear to me,  
My prayer let come before Thee!  
If Thou remember each misdeed,  
If each should have its rightful meed,  
Who may abide Thy presence?

2 Our pardon is Thy gift; Thy love  
And grace alone avail us.  
Our works could ne'er our guilt remove,  
The strictest life would fail us.  
That none may boast himself of aught,  
But own in fear Thy grace hath wrought  
What in him seemeth righteous.

3 And thus, my hope is in the Lord,  
And not in mine own merit;  
I rest upon His faithful word  
To them of contrite spirit.  
That He is merciful and just,--  
This is my comfort and my trust,  
His help I wait with patience.

4 And though it tarry till the night  
And round till morning waken,  
My heart shall ne'er mistrust Thy might,  
Nor count itself forsaken.  
Do thus, O ye of Israel's seed,  
Ye of the Spirit born indeed,  
Wait for your God's appearing.

5 Though great our sins and sore our woes,  
His grace much more aboundeth;  
His helping love no limit knows,  
Our utmost need it soundeth;  
Our kind and faithful Shepherd He,  
Who shall at last set Israel free  
From all their sin and sorrow.

## 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.**

## LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Back to normal this week, Wednesday at 1.30pm in the Church Hall for approximately an hour. We will be continuing in our study of the book of Joshua. The second study entitled "Crossing the Jordan" will be the focus of our attention this week. Please come along and see if this could possibly what you are looking for on your faith journey.

## 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.

## EASTER SUNDAY SUNRISE WORSHIP

Contin Church welcome you to an Easter Sunday Sunrise Worship on 17th April, meet Knockfarrel Car Park 7am. Service at the hill top followed by breakfast in Contin Village Hall.

## 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](http://ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk/booking) or email the Session Clerk at

[SessionClerk@ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:SessionClerk@ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk)

## 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](http://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  
Reference: Ukraine Appeal

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.