

15TH MAY 2022

# FERINTOSH PARISH CHURCH

WORSHIP AT HOME



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

*"In the divine Scriptures, there are shallows and there are deeps; shallows where the lamb may wade, and deeps where the elephant may swim." (John Owen)*

# HYMN

*Awake, sweet gratitude, and sing,  
Th' ascended saviour's love:  
Sing how he lives to carry on  
His people's cause above.*

*With cries and tears he offer'd up  
His humble suit below;  
But with authority he asks,  
Enthron'd in glory now.*

*For all that come to God by him,  
Salvation he demands;  
Points to their names upon his breast,  
And spreads his wounded hands.*

*His sweet atoning sacrifice,  
Gives sanction to his claim:  
"Father, I will that all my saints  
"Be with me where I am:*

*"By their salvation, recompense  
"Th sorrows I endur'd;  
"Just to the merits of thy son,  
"And faithful to thy word."  
Eternal life, at his request,  
To every saint is given:  
Safety on Earth, and, after death,  
The plenitude of heaven.*

## PRAYER

*Gracious God and ever blessed Father, as we turn now to the Scriptures, we ask for the blessing of the Holy Spirit to enlighten our minds and engage our affections and resolve our wills so that we might live for you in praise and adoration and we ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.*

## SCRIPTURE READING HEBREWS 3: 7 - 19

7 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says:  
"Today, if you will hear His voice,  
8 Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion,  
In the day of trial in the wilderness,  
9 Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me,  
And saw My works forty years.  
10 Therefore I was angry with that generation,  
And said, 'They always go astray in *their* heart,  
And they have not known My ways.'  
11 So I swore in My wrath,  
'They shall not enter My rest.' "



12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;

13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

14 For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,

15 while it is said:

"Today, if you will hear His voice,  
Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

16 For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, *was it* not all who came out of Egypt, *led* by Moses?

17 Now with whom was He angry forty years? *Was it* not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness?

18 And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey?

19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

## 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.*

## SERMON

We often hear ministers speak of the Christian life as a pilgrimage. Struggling saints make their way through this life with its joys and tears, knowing that the heavenly city awaits them at the end. A life of toil and labour will be followed by an eternity of rest.

The sabbatical pattern of six days of work, followed by a day of rest from our labours, is found in the creation account (Gen. 2:1-3). Observation of the Sabbath is also commanded of Israel in the law given to them at Mount Sinai (see Ex. 20:8-11).

Entrance into the Promised Land is also tied to this sabbatical pattern of working and resting, as the Israelites would enter a land flowing with milk and honey, which, in turn, was a type of a heavenly city (Heb. 11:10). Fruitful vines, deep wells, large families, and peace were promised to Israel upon the condition of obedience to the law of Moses, including the observation of the Sabbath. But these earthly blessings were not an end in themselves, they pointed to a heavenly city with blessings beyond human comprehension (Rev 21).

Through the observation of the Jewish Sabbath, and through the hope of dwelling in the Land of Promise where there would be great blessings, the people of God were pointed to heaven, to those eternal blessings and endless rest from all the labours of life, as God had promised them. It was not until the coming of Jesus Christ that the full meaning of this was made plain.

The author of Hebrews unpacks this for us in Hebrews 3:7-4:13, quoting that portion of Psalm 95 (vv. 7-11) in which God warns the people of Israel not to harden their hearts and be barred entrance into Canaan. But Israel did not believe God's promise, and when the people hardened their hearts, they were forced to wander for forty years through the wilderness of the Sinai before entering the Promised Land.

Beginning in Hebrews 3:14, the author sets out the contrast that enables us to make sense of this tragic episode in redemptive history: "For we have come to share in Christ." From the vantage point of the coming of the Messiah, we see that it was Israel's unbelief that brought judgment upon the generation that left Egypt under Moses. They died in the desert without entering the Land of Promise, because they did not believe that God could (or would) give them what He promised. But with the coming of Jesus, we see how Israel's unbelief does not alter the Christian's hope of entering the Sabbath rest.

As we read Hebrews 4:1: "Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands," and although people may fear they have disqualified themselves through disobedience, the fact remains that "good news came to us just as to them" (v. 2).

If we have believed the good news, "we who have believed enter that rest" (v. 3). It is through faith in Christ, and not through our own good works, that we receive what God has promised. Because of the doing and dying of Jesus, He has won for us what the Israelites could not accomplish for themselves. As Jesus Himself promises us, "Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28).

And yet, even though we entered God's promised rest when we ceased from trusting in our own good works, we observe the Lord's Day (the Christian Sabbath) as a day of rest that foreshadows the glories of an eternal Sabbath yet to come. We cease from our labours on the Lord's Day not only to give thanks for what Jesus has already done for us but also in anticipation of that which remains to be fulfilled. We read in verse 10: "For whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his."

Even though many Israelites of that next generation after Moses believed the promise and entered Canaan, this was not the end of the story. "If Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. So, then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God" (vv. 8-9). While we have already entered our rest in Christ as we cease from striving to enter heaven on the basis of our good works, there still remains the consummation of the Sabbath promise, eternal rest in the heavenly city in the presence of the blessed Trinity.

And so, the author of Hebrews can exhort his reader: "Let us therefore strive to enter that rest" (v. 11) through trusting in Jesus Christ. In doing this, we will not be like the unbelieving Israelites, who were disobedient to God and who perished in the desert under the hand of God's judgment. When we believe God's promise, even now we enter that rest. But one day our earthly pilgrimage will have come to an end, and we will enter that heavenly city and enjoy the eternal Sabbath rest that God has promised us.

## HYMN

A debtor to mercy alone,  
of covenant mercy I sing;  
nor fear, with your righteousness on,  
my person and off'ring to bring.  
The terrors of law and of God  
with me can have nothing to do;  
my Saviour's obedience and blood  
hide all my transgressions from view.

The work which his goodness began,  
the arm of his strength will complete;  
his promise is yea and amen,  
and never was forfeited yet.  
Things future, nor things that are now,  
nor all things below or above,  
can make him his purpose forgo,  
or sever my soul from his love.

My name from the palms of his hands  
eternity will not erase;  
impressed on his heart it remains,  
in marks of indelible grace.  
Yes, I to the end shall endure,  
as sure as the earnest is giv'n;  
more happy, but not more secure,  
the glorified spirits in heav'n.

## PRAYER

*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 UPDATE

Sunday morning worship takes place at 11.00am in the church. We no longer need people to book a seat for each service as we have increased the number of available chairs. The wearing of masks in church is also no longer a legal requirement but we would ask that folk continue to do so if at all possible so as to protect everyone and reduce transmission of the Covid virus. Please continue to sanitise hands on entering and leaving the church, and dress appropriately as we will keep the front and back doors of the church open during the service to maintain ventilation.

The Sunday Zoom service is at 6.30pm. If you would like to join the Zoom service, please contact the Session Clerk by email at [SessionClerk@ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:SessionClerk@ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk) for the details.

## LADIES BIBLE STUDY

On Wednesday 18th May, the group will meet in the Church Hall at 1.30pm for approximately an hour. The subject is the final study in the book of Joshua entitled "Planning for the Future" looking at the final chapters. We'd be delighted to have you come along to see if this group might suit you for studying and learning about God's word.

After the study, a short time of prayer is held to pray for international, national and local issues that are on people's hearts. All are welcome to come along just after 2.30 to join this much needed time of prayer for our world and those who live in it.

## HIGHLAND FOODBANK

Please continue in your support. More and more people are having to resort to applying for help of this kind as the cost of living crisis really bites. Your donations make a difference to the lives of vulnerable folk in our community. Thank you.



# 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.



# LEPROSY MISSION

The Leprosy Mission continues to "complete what Jesus started", aiming to SPOT IT - TREAT IT - STOP IT, eventually eradicating leprosy, its painful symptoms, disabling consequences and humiliating stigma.

Just short of £100 was recently donated by people in the congregation who put money aside throughout the year, and others have donated directly to The Leprosy Mission (Scotland), as well as buying cards and other items from TLM Trading.

The Leprosy Mission is holding a virtual Global Day of Prayer on Wednesday 11th May. Then on Saturday 4th June there is a Supporter Conference in the National Christian Outreach Centre in Perth. Details of these, and further information about the work of TLM can be found on [www.leprosymission.scot](http://www.leprosymission.scot) or contact Janet Winchester on 01349 865308.

## CHRISTIAN AID



If you would like to donate to the ongoing work of Christian Aid, please donate by using the bank details below:

Bank: Barclays  
Name: Christian Aid Scotland Income Account  
Sort code: 20-00-00  
Account number: 93444368

If supporters can include in the reference field 'Ferintosh Parish Church', this will help us to attribute the funds correctly to Ferintosh Parish Church. If you have any questions please speak to Pamela Lemon. Thank you.