

22ND MAY 2022

# FERINTOSH PARISH CHURCH

WORSHIP AT HOME



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

*"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."*  
(Charles H. Spurgeon)

# HYMN

A stronger faith, dear Saviour,  
A firmer, deeper love,  
We need while on the journey  
To reach our home above. [Refrain]

*To us, O Lord, that faith impart,  
On us that love bestow,  
Till, borne away on wings, we rise  
Where joys eternal flow,  
Where joys eternal flow.*

A stronger faith, dear Saviour,  
More love to do Thy will;  
And where Thy voice would lead us,  
Thy steps to follow still. [Refrain]

A stronger faith, dear Saviour,  
A perfect trust in Thee;  
A faith in every trial  
Our Father's hand to see. [Refrain]

A faith that, firm and steadfast,  
Beholds Thy constant light;  
But sees Thy smile the clearest  
Thro' clouds of darkest night. [Refrain]

## PRAYER

*Gracious God and heavenly Father, thank you for the privilege we have of access into your presence and thank you that so often you stretch out the sceptre of your word to us and speak to us in power and wisdom and grace. May your word lead us to Christ, that Christ would lead us to you, and this we pray together for Jesus our Saviour's sake. Amen.*

## SCRIPTURE READING 1 CORINTHIANS 15: 51-58

51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—  
52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.  
53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.  
54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."



55 "O Death, where *is* your sting?  
O Death, where *is* your victory?"

56 The sting of death *is* sin, and the strength of sin *is* the law.

57 But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

## 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

The experience of fallen humans in a fallen world is precarious to say the least. We are vulnerable to disease and deterioration in our bodies because, as the Apostle Paul has aptly stated, "death is at work in us" (2 Cor. 4:12). But as humans, we are not just physical; we are living souls. We have thoughts, affections, and emotions. Just as the fall is evidenced in our physical vulnerability and deterioration, so it is also evident in what can be described as our inner selves. Fear, anxiety, and frustration are the inner responses to what happens to our physical bodies, what we anticipate will happen to our physical bodies, and what we experience in the fallen world around us.

The promise of the gospel is the reversal of both the physical and spiritual consequences of the fall. The Apostle Paul reminds us that "our outer self is wasting away" (v. 16) but also that "if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling" (5:1-2). Faith in the gospel assures us of a physical existence not marked by disease, deterioration, and death. As the Apostle declares:

For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" (1 Cor. 15:53-55)

But while the gospel assures us of this greater physical existence, it announces spiritual benefits that we presently possess: "Therefore since we have been justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 5:1). "May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness through Him who called us to His own glory and excellence" (2 Peter 1:2-3). These passages are true for all believers, because saving faith attaches us to the person and work of Christ who is the totality of God's saving grace. So, on the one hand the gospel assures us of a physical existence beyond our present experience, and on the other hand the gospel also grants us spiritual privileges that we presently possess.

The reality of our day-to-day experience does not always seem to match what we possess by faith. The gap between what we possess by faith and what we experience both outwardly and inwardly is what theologians call the tension between the already and the not yet. The reality of this continuing tension is one of the many reasons Christians need the gospel constantly before them and poured into them on a regular basis. The gospel is the anchor for the soul that steadies us in the face of our outward perishing and internal indecisions. God guarantees the grace of the gospel with the integrity of His character and the wounds of His Son.



## HYMN

As we journey from earth to the kingdom above,  
In the path where the millions have trod,  
There a beautiful valley we meet on the way,  
And its light is the sunshine of God.  
How we turn to its shelter our travel-worn feet,  
From our burdens to find a release;  
And our souls are refreshed by the Shepherd divine,  
In the beautiful valley of peace. [Refrain]

*O the beautiful valley of peace,  
Beautiful valley of peace;  
No tempests arise to darken the skies,  
Beautiful valley of peace.*

Oh, that beautiful valley of holy delight  
Is secluded from earth and its woes;  
There the wiles of the tempter can never assail,  
And the weary awhile may repose.  
How we fly to its shelter from billow and storm,  
For we know their commotion will cease  
When we hear the sweet voice of the shepherd divine,  
In the beautiful valley of peace. [Refrain]

Oh, that beautiful valley of holy delight  
Is a foretaste of glory untold,  
That will burst on our eyes when we enter the gates  
To the city of jasper and gold.  
When at home with the blest in the mansions of rest,  
Where forever all sorrow shall cease,  
We will praise the dear name of our Shepherd divine  
For the beautiful valley of peace. [Refrain]

## PRAYER

*Precious God and heavenly Father, we come with joy into your presence. We thank you for the Lord's Day that you have given to us and for the assurance that you have granted to us already that Jesus Christ has risen from the grave and conquered death and sin. We pray that the book will live for us and we pray that by the power of your truth you will more and more conform us to Christ, it's Author, and grant, our God, that your word will not only do us good but through us do good to our church and to our community. We pray that the Holy Spirit will be our Master and that our Lord Jesus himself will be our Teacher. And this we pray for His great name'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.**

## 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.

## 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 [SessionClerke@ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:SessionClerke@ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk) for the details.

## LADIES BIBLE STUDY

On Wednesday 25th May, we will come to the end of the study of the book of Joshua. Whilst this has challenged us on many fronts, it has proved very fruitful on our journey of reading God's word and understanding the things it tells us about God. We'd love to have you join us to see if this is something which could help you on your journey of faith. Church Hall at 1.30pm for about an hour. After the study, we like to join in a time of prayer for the world, the country, our local area and personal concerns. Please feel free to come along then (out 2.30) to pray for your concerns. All welcome to the prayer time, male and female!

## HIGHLAND FOODBANK

You are so very generous with your donations and a huge thank you is due to all. However, as you will notice and read about, the need for the foodbank is higher than ever. Please add a little extra to your shop to donate.



# 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.

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.