

29TH MAY 2022

FERINTOSH PARISH CHURCH

WORSHIP AT HOME



www.ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk

"The word comfort is from two Latin words meaning "with" and "strong" - He is with us to make us strong. Comfort is not soft, weakening commiseration; it is true, strengthening love." (Amy Carmichael)

HYMN

1 Amidst us our Beloved stands,
and bids us view His pierced hands;
points to the wounded feet and side,
blest emblems of the Crucified.

2 What food luxurious loads the board,
when, at His table, sits the Lord!
The cup how rich, the bread how sweet,
when Jesus deigns the guests to meet!

3 If now, with eyes defiled and dim,
we see the signs, but see not Him;
O may His love the scales displace,
and bid us see Him face to face!

4 Our former transports we recount,
when with Him in the holy mount:
these cause our souls to thirst anew
His marred but lovely face to view.

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 11: 24 - 26 NKJV

24 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,

25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,

26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

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

Moses did not die at Pharaoh's hands, for his parents trusted God. They did not fear what disobeying Pharaoh might bring, but they hid Moses and he escaped Pharaoh's wrath (Heb. 11:23; see Ex. 2:1-10). However, Moses did not rely on the faith of his parents for the rest of his life. Instead, Hebrews 11:24-26 explains, Moses himself trusted the Lord, and so he enjoyed salvation.

We remember, that as Pharaoh's second-in-command, Joseph had every reason, humanly speaking, not to identify with God's people but to believe his everlasting home was Egypt (see Gen. 41:37-57). Moses was in a similar position. Raised as a prince of Egypt (Ex. 2:1-10), Moses had all the riches anyone could want, the best education money could buy, and more power than almost anyone on earth. But like Joseph, who sought burial in Canaan (Heb. 11:22), Moses saw that all these things are nothing in comparison to the eternal blessing of God. When the time came to identify with the suffering people of God or with the powerful people of the world, Moses by faith chose the people of God (vv. 24-26).

In so doing, Moses rejected the "fleeting pleasures of sin" (v. 25). As noted, the position of Moses in Egypt gave him everything anyone could want from this world. But these were "pleasures of sin" because having them would have required Moses to reject God and His covenant people. Enjoying good things we find in this world is not inherently wrong; the Lord often rewards those who fear Him with "riches and honour" (Prov. 22:4). Yet, partaking of the good things available in this world is sin when we must reject God and His people to do so (Matt. 19:16-30).

Therefore, we must always be working to reject love of this world and to seek the Holy Spirit to kindle our love of the Lord both outwardly and inwardly. John Owen comments, "Self-denial is not just saying no to outward actions but is a mortification of the desires and affections of the mind that wants to place a value on things in life, especially the things of this world that oppose spiritual things."

It took faith for Moses to identify with the people of God, for he could do so only if he thought the "reproach of Christ" better than worldly success. Ultimately, it is better to suffer rejection from the world for the sake of God's kingdom. The hardship this may bring is temporary, but the blessings received through Jesus are eternal (John 3:16; 1 Peter 5:10-11).

The Bible does not teach that the good things of this world are automatically forbidden to God's people. In fact, we are free to enjoy them, provided that we can enjoy them without sinning. When the choice is between obeying the Lord and enjoying something pleasurable, however, we must choose to obey God. Let us this day choose obedience over the fleeting pleasures of sin.

HYMN

1 Sweetly the holy hymn
Breaks on the morning air;
Before the world with smoke is dim,
We meet to offer prayer.

2 While flow'rs are wet with dews,
Dew of our souls, descend;
Ere yet the sun the day renews,
O Lord, Thy Spirit send.

3 Upon the battlefield,
Before the fight begins,
We seek, O Lord, Thy shelt'ring shield,
To guard us from our sins.

4 On the lone mountain side,
Before the morning's light,
The Man of sorrows wept and cried,
And rose refreshed with might.

5 Oh, hear us then, for we
Are very weak and frail,
We make the Saviour's name our plea,
And surely must prevail.

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 for the details.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Do come along to the Church Hall next Wednesday, 1st June, at 1.30pm. We are about to begin a short series of studies written by The Trussel Trust, the organisation which runs many foodbanks across the whole country including our local one. The first study is about Compassion. We meet for approximately an hour to read God's word and discuss the many issues these studies highlight.

After the study, many enjoy a time of prayer together. This lasts about half an hour and prayers are lifted to God about international, national and local issues as well as prayers for those specially on our hearts. Everyone is welcome to join us at these times of quiet reflection.

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.

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 or contact Janet Winchester on 01349 865308.

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.