

5TH JUNE 2022

FERINTOSH PARISH CHURCH

WORSHIP AT HOME



www.ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk

"Set no time to the Lord the creator of time, for His time is always best." (Samuel Rutherford)

HYMN

1. The sands of time are sinking,
The dawn of heaven breaks;
The summer morn I've sighed for –
The fair, sweet morn awakes:
Dark, dark had been the midnight
But dayspring is at hand,
And glory, glory dwelleth
In Emmanuel's land.

2. The king there in His beauty,
Without a veil is seen:
It were a well-spent journey,
Though seven deaths lay between:
The Lamb with His fair army,
Doth on Mount Zion stand,
And glory, glory dwelleth
In Emmanuel's land

3. O Christ, He is the fountain,
The deep, sweet well of love!
The streams on earth I've tasted
More deep I'll drink above:
There to an ocean fullness
His mercy doth expand,
And glory, glory dwelleth
In Emmanuel's land.

PRAYER

*Almighty God,
unto whom all hearts be open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love thee,
and worthily magnify thy holy Name;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
(A prayer said at the Queen's Coronation)*

SCRIPTURE READING HABAKKUK 3 NKJV

1 A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet, on Shigionoth.
2 O Lord, I have heard Your speech *and* was afraid;
O Lord, revive Your work in the midst of the years!
In the midst of the years make *it* known;
In wrath remember mercy.

3 God came from Teman,
The Holy One from Mount Paran. *Selah*
His glory covered the heavens,
And the earth was full of His praise.
4 *His* brightness was like the light;
He had rays *flashing* from His hand,
And there His power was hidden.
5 Before Him went pestilence,
And fever followed at His feet.
6 He stood and measured the earth;
He looked and startled the nations.
And the everlasting mountains were scattered,
The perpetual hills bowed.
His ways *are* everlasting.
7 I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction;
The curtains of the land of Midian trembled.
8 O Lord, were *You* displeased with the rivers,
Was Your anger against the rivers,
Was Your wrath against the sea,
That *You* rode on *Your* horses,
Your chariots of salvation?
9 Your bow was made quite ready;
Oaths were sworn over *Your* arrows. *Selah*
You divided the earth with rivers.
10 The mountains saw *You and* trembled;
The overflowing of the water passed by.
The deep uttered its voice,
And lifted its hands on high.
11 The sun and moon stood still in their habitation;
At the light of *Your* arrows they went,
At the shining of *Your* glittering spear.
12 *You* marched through the land in indignation;
You trampled the nations in anger.
13 *You* went forth for the salvation of *Your* people,
For salvation with *Your* Anointed.
You struck the head from the house of the wicked,
By laying bare from foundation to neck. *Selah*
14 *You* thrust through with his own arrows
The head of his villages.
They came out like a whirlwind to scatter me;
Their rejoicing was like feasting on the poor in secret.
15 *You* walked through the sea with *Your* horses,
Through the heap of great waters.
16 When I heard, my body trembled;
My lips quivered at *the* voice;
Rottenness entered my bones;
And I trembled in myself,
That I might rest in the day of trouble.
When he comes up to the people,
He will invade them with his troops.

17 Though the fig tree may not blossom,
Nor fruit be on the vines;
Though the labour of the olive may fail,
And the fields yield no food;
Though the flock may be cut off from the fold,
And there be no herd in the stalls—
18 Yet I will rejoice in the Lord,
I will joy in the God of my salvation.
19 The Lord God is my strength;
He will make my feet like deer's feet,
And He will make me walk on my high hills.

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

Habakkuk lived in a time of crisis. He was alert to the situation of his world and ready to give the message of God to his generation, but he did not receive straight and immediate answers from God. Actually, what God told him about what was going to happen—the judgment of Judah by the Babylonians—confused him. How was it possible that an evil people would be used by God to execute His judgment on the sins of His people? Habakkuk's theology of providence, his doctrine of sin, and his view of God were at stake. He needed to be stretched. He needed to question his too-moralistic view of God. The same applies to us. When we are confronted with evil around us, our theology goes through a stress test.

With all his questions, Habakkuk did not need to become an agnostic or a sceptic. Unbelief and scepticism are never the answer. He needed to believe in God and trust His Word even though this meant not having all the answers. In other words, he needed to live by faith.

"The righteous shall live by his faith" (Hab. 2:4). Faith in God was crucial for navigating the crisis Habakkuk was in, and faith in the same God is crucial for surviving our present-day crisis. Faith opened for Habakkuk a whole new perspective on the crisis. Judgment and salvation would surely come. The righteousness of God would prevail and set things right. Faith enabled Habakkuk to see God's dealings with the world in a new way. He could then celebrate God's providence and His salvation.

The message that the prophet received embodies a principle of faithful submission to God that issues ultimately in eternal life. In the work of Jesus Christ, the righteousness of God has been fully revealed and is imputed to those who trust Him.

The righteous shall live by faith. Habakkuk learned it. The Apostle Paul taught it (Rom. 1:7). Martin Luther and our Protestant forefathers took this biblical principle seriously and understood it as the capstone of the biblical gospel. Much of what happened afterward depended on a new appreciation of this text: "The righteous shall live by his faith." Living by faith made the difference in Habakkuk's life, and it made a difference in the sixteenth century. It will surely make a difference even in our post-Christian, secular world.

Living by faith does not mean that we understand all that happens around us, nor that we are righteous in ourselves. It means that we trust God, that we are clothed in the righteousness of Christ, and that we live by faith. As we pray that our witness and efforts will be instrumental in bringing a new reformation according to the gospel, let's remember our forefathers and mothers whom God used in the past. The principle that applied in Habakkuk's times still applies today: "The righteous shall live by his faith."

PSALM 100

- 1 All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
- 2 Him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell,
Come ye before him and rejoice.
- 3 Know that the Lord is God indeed;
Without our aid he did us make:
We are his flock, he doth us feed,
And for his sheep he doth us take.

4 O enter then his gates with praise,
Approach with joy his courts unto:
Praise, laud, and bless his name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

5 For why? the Lord our God is good,
His mercy is for ever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

(This Psalm was sung at the Queen's
Coronation)

PRAYER

***On the occasion of the Queen's Platinum
Jubilee a prayer taken from her Coronation***

"Strengthen her, O Lord, with the Holy Ghost
the Comforter;

Confirm and stablish her with thy free and
princely Spirit,

the Spirit of wisdom and government,

the Spirit of counsel and ghostly strength,

the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness,

and fill her, O Lord, with the Spirit of thy holy
fear,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

On Wednesday 8th June we will meet in the Church Hall at 1.30pm for approximately an hour to study the topic of "Dignity". This material is produced by the Trussell Trust for small group discussion. We'd love to have you with us for this time of study of God's word.

After the study, a time of prayer follows when issues of international, national and local importance are thought about and prayers offered. All are welcome to join us for this time.

HIGHLAND FOODBANK

The June list of items to donate is available in the vestibule. The foodbank is still in need of corned beef, tins of potatoes/smash, tins of custard, wheetabix/cornflakes, UHT milk, long life fruit juice, toilet rolls and bags for life (new or used). They have plenty beans, pasta and soup for now. Please do think about putting one or two items into your trolley to donate. Your generosity is very much appreciated.