

24TH JULY 2022

FERINTOSH PARISH CHURCH

WORSHIP AT HOME



www.ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk

"Human nature's way of salvation is, "do, do do." But God's way of salvation is, "done, done; it is all done." You have but to rely by faith on the atonement which Christ accomplished on the cross. (C. H. Spurgeon)

HYMN

Jesus, keep me near the cross,
There a precious fountain,
Free to all—a healing stream,
Flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

*In the cross, in the cross,
Be my glory ever;
From the cross my ransomed soul
Nothing then shall sever.*

Near the cross, a trembling soul,
Love and mercy found me;
There the Bright and Morning Star
Sheds its beams around me.

Near the cross! O Lamb of God,
Bring its scenes before me;
Help me walk from day to day,
With its shadow o'er me.

Near the cross I'll watch and wait,
Hoping, trusting ever,
Till I see my Saviour's face,
Leave His presence never.

PRAYER

Gracious Lord, Your Name is love, in love receive our prayer. Look to the cross of Your beloved Son and view the preciousness of His atoning blood; Listen to His never-failing intercession, and speak to our hearts, 'your sins are forgiven, be of good cheer.'

Give to us more and more to prize the privilege of prayer, to find pardon in Christ, to converse with You; to know You in prayer as the path in which our feet tread, the latch upon the door of our lips, the marrow of our understanding, the strength of our will, the power of our affection and the sweetness of our memory.

May the matter of our prayer be always wise, humble, scriptural, Christ-like. Give Your people unwavering faith that our prayers are never in vain. You have given us the greatest gift, the person of Your Son, and in Him You will give us all we need.

(Prayer from 'A collection of puritan prayers')

SCRIPTURE READING

PHILIPPIANS 1: 1 - 11 NKJV

1 Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy,

5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now,

6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

7 just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace.

8 For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ.

9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,

10 that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ,

11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

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

Regeneration is required for salvation. Regeneration is mysterious, operating apart from our sight. Regeneration precedes faith. Regeneration is the sovereign and immediate work of God. But that is not all that the Bible says about regeneration. There is one more aspect of biblical teaching on the matter—namely, the permanence of regeneration. Looking at the entire scope of divine revelation, we see that regeneration lasts forever.

Many passages of Scripture tell us that once the Holy Spirit renews us and grants us faith, He preserves us in that state for all eternity. Christians can fall into grievous sin. Some may even deny the faith for a time. However, the Lord never allows one of His true, reborn children to fall away finally. If a person with authentic faith seems to fall away, they will return to Christ before they draw their final breath.

Philippians 1:6 is one of the most important and clearest texts on this subject. Paul asserts that God will certainly bring to completion the good work that He begins in us. We need not doubt that our Creator will preserve us unto glory. He never abandons the work of renewal that He begins in regeneration, but He sees it through to glorification.

Left to ourselves, none of us would continue in a state of grace and faith. Sin is real and powerful, and it leads only to death (Rom. 6:23). Without the Lord's preserving work, the sin that remains would overtake us and snuff out any spiritual life that we have. But God preserves His children. This is not a passive work wherein we just sit back and relax. The Apostle also tells the Philippians to work out their salvation in fear and trembling (Phil. 2:12).

Those who have been born of God seek to love and serve Him. Ultimately, however, this seeking comes from the Lord. Paul also tells us that God is at work in us to will and to work for His good pleasure. His power and grace are what keep us in the faith, not our efforts.

Nevertheless, we cannot grow complacent. When we have sinned, we must repent and return to the Lord, knowing that He will certainly restore us (1 John 1:8–10). Those who continue in conscious sin, thinking that grace will abound, have misunderstood grace and likely have never truly believed in Christ in the first place (Rom. 6:1–4). Furthermore, we must pray for those who seem to have fallen away. Until they die, there remains hope for their return to Christ and His church. We cannot write anyone off as unsavable.

Everyone who has been a Christian for any length of time likely knows somebody who seemed to be a believer but yet has renounced the faith. Today, if you know such a person, pray for them, asking God to draw them back. And let us pray daily that the Lord will keep us in faith and give us the courage to repent if we fall.

HYMN

Alas, and did my Saviour bleed?
And did my Sovereign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
For such a worm as I?

*At the cross, at the cross where
I first saw the light,
And the burden of my heart rolled away,
It was there by faith I received my sight,
And now I am happy all the day!*

Was it for sins that I had done
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity! grace unknown!
And love beyond degree!

Well might the sun in darkness hide,
And shut His glories in,
When Christ, the mighty Maker, died
For man, His creature's sin.

Thus might I hide my blushing face
While His dear cross appears.
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
And melt mine eyes to tears.

But drops of grief can ne'er repay
The debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away,
'Tis all that I can do.

PRAYER

Father in heaven, we thank You that the very substance of the covenant is Christ and His righteous obedience for His people even to death on a cross. We thank You, our God, that Christ is the all sufficient Saviour and His righteousness is an all sufficient righteousness. May we not be blinded to the beauty of Christ, hardened against the gospel, or depending on anything but the merits of Christ for our acceptance with God. Bless Your Word, oh Lord, we pray. Keep Your hand upon us all and let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us. We pray that Your grace and mercy and peace will be the abiding portion of all Your people both this day and evermore. We ask in Jesus' precious name, 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.

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.

SUNDAY CLUB

Sunday Club will not meet during the school holidays until Sunday 14th August. The new session will begin on Sunday 21st August.

During the holiday period parents and carers are welcome to bring their children to Church, and may if they wish sit in the Annexe, where a selection of books, games and other activities will be available.

HIGHLAND FOODBANK

The list of items required in the month of July is available at the front vestibule. There is not much change from last time but beans, soup and pasta are NOT required since they have good stocks of these items.

Please think about putting a little something in your trolley this week to help the most vulnerable folk around us. Remember too the school holidays places an extra burden since the families are not going to get school meals. Maybe something extra this week?

Thank you for your continued, generous support.