

31ST JULY 2022

FERINTOSH PARISH CHURCH

WORSHIP AT HOME



www.ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk

"Long before time began, or space was created, God had written upon His heart the names of His elect people."

(C. H. Spurgeon)

HYMN

1 O God of Bethel, by whose hand
thy people still are fed,
who through this weary pilgrimage
hast all our fathers led.

2 Our vows, our prayers, we now present
before thy throne of grace;
God of our fathers, be the God
of their succeeding race.

3 Through each perplexing path of life
our wandering footsteps guide;
give us each day our daily bread,
and raiment fit provide.

4 O spread thy covering wings around
till all our wanderings cease,
and at our Father's loved abode
our souls arrive in peace.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank you that in your mercy you have given us your Word that we might know the Word made flesh, the Word of God the Father. We bow before your magnificent majesty. We acknowledge your authority over our lives. We wonder at your amazing grace. We delight in your demonstrated love for us in Christ. And we cast ourselves utterly on your mercy in Jesus' precious name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING LUKE 10: 25 - 37 NKJV

25 And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

26 He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?"

27 So he answered and said, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbour as yourself.' "

28 And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live."

29 But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?"

30 Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead.

31 Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

32 Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side.

33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion.

34 So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.

35 On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.'

36 So which of these three do you think was neighbour to him who fell among the thieves?"

37 And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

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

In the tenth chapter of Luke, we are told of a certain lawyer who “put Jesus to the test” (v. 25). In the New Testament, lawyers, or scribes as they were also called, were specialists in the interpretation and teaching the law of God, having studied in one of the rabbinical schools. Jesus was not from one of these rabbinical schools. Yet, we read in Matthew 7:28-29, “And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.” That would help explain why there was always some lawyer confronting Jesus over matters of the law.

In Luke 10:25, the lawyer gets to the heart of the matter: “What shall I do to inherit eternal life?” This question rests on the assumption in the rabbinical community that eternal life is gained through the keeping of God’s law. This is why the scribes were so thorough in their efforts to interpret God’s law. Jesus responds with a two-part question of His own: “What is written in the law?” and, “How do you read it?” (v. 26). In other words, how are you interpreting the requirements of the law? The lawyer’s response in verse 27 mirrors Jesus’ summation of the two tables of the law recorded in Matthew 22:34-40 and Mark 12:28-31.

The essence of the law is to love God with the totality of our being and to love our neighbour as ourselves. Jesus tells the lawyer, “Do this and you will live” (Luke 10:28). It should be noted that anyone who interprets the law in this twofold manner and keeps it perfectly in thought, word, and deed will earn eternal life. (Of course, no one has ever done this except Christ, which is why we must trust not in our own obedience but His.) At this point, the lawyer raised a question of interpretation: “Who is my neighbour?” (v. 29). This is what propelled Jesus into the time-honoured parable of the good Samaritan.

There are three lessons we can learn from this parable. (1) This parable demonstrates the inseparable connection between the two parts of the law. Our love of God is manifested in love of neighbour.

We read in 1 John 4:20, “If anyone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.” Loving God and neighbour is agreed upon by Jesus and the lawyer as God’s requirement to inherit eternal life, and this parable illustrates what love of neighbour is.

(2) This parable demonstrates the dynamics and substance of the gospel message. The Good Samaritan’s care of the man overtaken by robbers is a picture of the love of God as it rescues us helpless sinners from our fallen condition.

(3) Finally, this parable illustrates the dynamics of new life that is a fruit of the gospel, in that we are able to see others as we ought—as neighbours, rather than through the artificial barriers imposed by our fallen nature reinforced by culture. This is not what saves us or gives us eternal life. Being rescued by our Saviour does that, but part of the proof of our rescue and vertical reconciliation is horizontal love and service.

PSALM 118: 19 - 26

This is the gate of God, by it
the just shall enter in.
Thee will I praise, for thou me heard'st
and hast my safety been.

That stone is made head corner-stone,
which builders did despise:
This is the doing of the Lord,
and wondrous in our eyes.

This is the day God made, in it
we'll joy triumphantly.
Save now, I pray thee, Lord; I pray,
send now prosperity.

Blessed is he in God's great name
that cometh us to save:
We, from the house which to the Lord
pertains, you blessed have.

PRAYER

Father in heaven, we thank you that Christ is the all sufficient Saviour and His righteousness is an all sufficient righteousness. Lord, we ask in Jesus' precious name that you would give us sight to see the light of Christ. 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 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 latest requests for donations for August is available at the vestibule of the Church. They are still well stocked with beans, pasta and soup but are adding shampoo and toothpaste to the list of needed items. Please give as generously as you can to help the most vulnerable cope with difficult times. Thank you.