

13TH FEBRUARY 2022

# FERINTOSH PARISH CHURCH

WORSHIP AT HOME



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

*C. H. Spurgeon said, "What is it to believe in Christ? It is not merely to say 'He is God and the Saviour', but to trust in Him wholly and entirely and take Him for all your salvation from this time forth and forever as your Lord, your Master, your all."*

## HYMN

Breaking thro' the clouds that gather  
O'er the Christian's natal skies,  
Distant beams, like floods of glory,  
Fill the soul with glad surprise;  
And we almost hear the echo  
Of the pure and holy throng,  
In the bright, the bright forever,  
In the summer land of song.

Chorus:

*On the banks beyond the river  
We shall meet, no more to sever;  
In the bright, the bright forever,  
In the summer land of song.*

Yet a little while we linger  
Ere we reach our journey's end;  
Yet a little while of labour,  
Ere the ev'ning shades descend;  
Then we'll lay us down to slumber,  
But the night will soon be o'er;  
In the bright, the bright forever,  
We shall wake, to weep no more. [Chorus]  
O the bliss of life eternal!  
O the long unbroken rest!  
In the golden fields of pleasure,  
In the region of the blest;  
But, to see our dear Redeemer,  
And before his throne to fall,  
There to hear his gracious welcome,  
Will be sweeter far than all. [Chorus]

## PRAYER

*Our gracious God and heavenly Father, we thank you that you are our Father, that you know us through-and-through and that your word is able, first to find us and then to speak to us and then to transform us. We pray that by the power of your Holy Spirit this book that we read will live for us today in the grace and through the teaching of our Saviour, our Lord Jesus Christ and so we come to you, our eyes are upon you, our hearts are full of affection for you, our wills bowed before you and we say to you, Speak, Lord, for your servants are listening. This we pray in Jesus our Saviour's name. Amen.*

## 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.*

## SCRIPTURE READING RUTH 1: 15 - 22

15 And she said, "Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law."

16 But Ruth said:

"Entreat me not to leave you,  
Or to turn back from following after you;  
For wherever you go, I will go;  
And wherever you lodge, I will lodge;  
Your people shall be my people,  
And your God, my God.

17 Where you die, I will die,  
And there will I be buried.

The Lord do so to me, and more also,  
If anything but death parts you and me."

18 When she saw that she]was determined to go with her, she stopped speaking to her.

19 Now the two of them went until they came to Bethlehem. And it happened, when they had come to Bethlehem, that all the city was excited because of them; and the women said, "Is this Naomi?"

20 But she said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.

21 I went out full, and the Lord has brought me home again empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the Lord has testified against me, and [e]the Almighty has afflicted me?"

22 So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. Now they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

# SERMON

Orpah the Moabitess daughter-in-law of Naomi returned to her homeland when Naomi told her that her prospects for getting a new husband were bad if she did not go back to Moab (Ruth 1:1-14). Her other Moabitess daughter-in-law Ruth, however, clung to Naomi, and Naomi tried to encourage Ruth to go back to Moab in order to find a new husband (v. 15).

Note that Naomi encouraged Ruth to go back to Moab by telling her that Orpah has gone back "to her gods" (v. 15). In the ancient Near East, peoples of different territories worshiped different gods, and it was thought that a god's reign was limited to the territory where the god's worshipers resided. When one nation or people defeated another, it meant that the god of the victorious nation was stronger than the god of the defeated nation. On a surface-level reading, Naomi's reference to the gods of Moab might imply that she held to such an understanding. However, Naomi clearly believed the God of Israel could be active outside the land of Israel, for she asked that the Lord would give rest to Orpah and Ruth in their new houses in Moab (vv. 8-9). Her reference to the gods of Moab was likely a way to convince her daughters-in-law to go where they would find new husbands and provision. Moreover, she clearly did not think that either daughter-in-law would forsake the gods of Moab for the God of Israel.

However, that is exactly what Ruth the Moabitess did, committing herself to Naomi and to Naomi's God, the Lord of Israel and the one true creator God (vv. 16-18). Given the spiritual disaster that was the period of the judges, Ruth was exemplary in this commitment to the Lord. We remember the gentile centurion who, centuries later, would show much greater faith than most others in Israel during the ministry of Jesus (Matt. 8:5-13). And plainly, Ruth's confession could be due only to the grace of God in granting her new life (see John 3:1-8). In commenting on the difference between the choice of Orpah and the choice of Ruth, Matthew Henry writes that Ruth is "an instance of the grace of God inclining the soul to the resolute choice of the better part."



As chapter 1 of Ruth concludes, we see that Naomi held a certain bitterness toward the Lord because of the loss of her husband and sons. Returning to Bethlehem, she asked the people to call her "Mara," or "bitter," on account of what God had allowed to happen to her (vv. 19-22). Soon, however, the Lord would bless her and Ruth.

Ruth came to faith in the God of Israel, and we know that can happen only because God brought her dead soul to life (Eph. 2:1-10). Long before the coming of Christ, the Lord was bringing people outside of Israel such as Ruth into His people Israel. Today, He continues to regenerate souls through the preaching of the gospel. Whose soul can you pray for today, asking God to bring that person to new life in the gospel?

## HYMN

Thou, my everlasting portion,  
More than friend or life to me;  
All along my pilgrim journey,  
Saviour, let me walk with Thee.

*Refrain:*

*Close to Thee, Close to Thee,  
Close to Thee, Close to Thee,  
All along this tedious journey,  
Saviour, let me walk with Thee.*

Not for ease or worldly pleasure,  
Nor for fame my prayer shall be;  
Gladly will I toil and suffer,  
Only let me walk with Thee. [*Refrain*]

## PRAYER

*Our heavenly Father, we pray as You have given us Your Word with the strong consolation of its truth, with the assurance that through faith we are anchored to Jesus Christ, we pray that you would give to each of us a gracious sense that you desire that we should be absolutely convinced of the security that You give us through faith in our beloved Saviour. Thank You that You will work everything together for good for those who love You, are called according to your purpose since You did not spare your own Son, but have given Him up on the cross for us all. We believe that you will also with Him freely give us all things. Lead us into such assurance and its joy and its stability we pray for Jesus Christ our Saviour'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.**

## LADIES BIBLE STUDY

We meet each Wednesday at 1.30pm in the Church Hall to study God's Word and its relevance for us in these times. For now we are looking at "Breaking through to Spiritual Maturity" in particular "Why be a captive when you can be free". We'd love many more ladies to join us. A warm welcome awaits.

## RETIRING COLLECTION FOR HIV/AIDS PROGRAMME

Since we are still not able to enjoy our traditional Soup and Sweet lunch this year, the Kirk Session has agreed that a retiring offering will be taken up at today's service in aid of the Church of Scotland HIV/AIDS Programme, which has ongoing commitments in the UK and abroad to projects supporting those affected by HIV/AIDS. Anyone not able to be in Church who would like to contribute should give their donation to any Elder, or phone Janet Winchester (01349 865308) to arrange collection.

## CHRISTIAN AID ON-LINE SUPPORTERS' GATHERING

Christian Aid is holding an on-line supporters' gathering on Tuesday 22 February from 10am to 12noon. The focus will be Christian Aid's work in South Sudan. For more information and to register to participate, email: [edinburgh@christian-aid.org](mailto:edinburgh@christian-aid.org)

## WORSHIP

Sunday morning worship takes place at 11.00am in the church. We have reduced social distancing to 1 metre within the church and as a result have been able to increase the number of seats that are available, though there is still an upper limit. We would love to be able to welcome you to the service, so to guarantee a seat, please book with the Session Clerk, Martin McLauchlan, preferably by 5pm on the Friday prior to the service.

To book, either visit the church website, and complete and submit the online booking form at: [ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk/booking](http://ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk/booking) or email the Session Clerk at [SessionClerkeferintoshparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:SessionClerkeferintoshparishchurch.org.uk) and he will send you a link to the Booking Form for you to complete and submit. If you do not have access to the Internet, phone him on 01349 830303 and leave your name and phone number and he will get back to you as soon as he can to take your details.

The Sunday Zoom service is at 6.30pm. If you would like to join the Zoom-service, please contact the Session Clerk at [SessionClerkeferintoshparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:SessionClerkeferintoshparishchurch.org.uk)

Please continue to take care and stay safe.

## HIGHLAND FOODBANK

From the latest news stories, Foodbanks are needed more than ever. Please be generous as usual by adding a few extra non-perishable items to your shopping trolley to donate to the foodbank. This will help people in our local area who are struggling to make ends meet. Thank you.