



**Highland
International
Church
Inverness**

Sunday 28th February 2021

Highland International Church

Welcome & Notices

Welcome to our YouTube live-stream service:

<https://youtu.be/ld-hYQWf6-s>

HIC 10.00 am YouTube service (direct link):

[CLICK HERE](#)

HIC YouTube Channel:

[CLICK HERE](#)

HIC Website:

[CLICK HERE](#)

HIC Facebook page:

[CLICK HERE](#)

HIC Sunday sermons (2016-2021):

[CLICK HERE](#)

- **Sunday 28th February (today)**

10.00am – **Morning Service** – YouTube live-stream

5.00pm – **New City Catechism** by Zoom
(Question & Answer **No. 30**)

- **Thursday 4th March**

7.30pm – We meet as a church family by Zoom
for **Bible study** and **prayer**.

HIGHLAND FOOD BANK

Here are the latest requests from the Inverness-based **Highland Food Bank**:

- Tins of potatoes – medium or small
- Bags of sugar
- Fruit Juice

David and Emm Warmbath are willing to collect any donations (01463 710110), but it is also possible to *leave donations at the door of the Food Bank premises itself, provided it is open* – 1 Glebe Street, Inverness IV1 1RF

Order of today's 10.00 am service

THE 2ND SUNDAY IN LENT

Call to worship

Lord, you have been our dwelling-place
throughout all generations.

Before the mountains were born
or you brought forth the whole world,
from everlasting to everlasting,
you are God.

Psalm 90 v 1, 2

PSALM 84

1. O LORD OF HOSTS, HOW LOVELY IS YOUR DWELLING-PLACE!

I cry aloud, I long for your abode;
the joys of earth have left my soul unsatisfied:
my heart and flesh desire the living God.
Within your walls the sparrow finds a nesting place,
that near your altars she may have her young:
how happy those who dwell within your house, O Lord,
by whom your holy praises are for ever sung!

2. How happy those who have
in you the strength they need,
and in whose heart are Zion's pathways found!
The desert wastes they make a land of water-springs,
till autumn rains refresh the barren ground.

From strength to strength
they journey on their pilgrimage,
until in God's own presence they appear:
O Lord of hosts, do good to your anointed one;
receive my earnest prayer: O God of Jacob, hear!

3. How better, far, a single day within your courts,
than thousands spent in any other way;
I'd rather wait upon the steps beside your door,
than pitch my tent where wickedness holds sway.
For like a shield the Lord defends and covers us;
he gives us grace and crowns with glory too,
and nothing good withholds from those that walk aright:
O Lord of hosts, how happy all who trust in you!

DAVID G PRESTON
© AUTHOR / JUBILATE HYMNS
[PSALM 84 / PRAISE 84]

Prayer and the Lord's Prayer (said together)

[MATTHEW CH.6, V.9-13, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION © 2011]

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.*

*And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.
For yours is the kingdom
and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.*

Bible readings (New International Version)

Matthew 23 v 27-39

²⁷ "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. ²⁸ In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

²⁹ "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You build tombs for the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous. ³⁰ And you say, 'If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.' ³¹ So you testify against yourselves that you are the descendants of those who murdered the prophets. ³² Go ahead, then, and complete what your ancestors started!

³³ "You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell? ³⁴ Therefore I am sending you prophets and sages and teachers. Some of them you will kill and crucify; others you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town. ³⁵ And so upon you will come all the righteous blood that has been shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Berekiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. ³⁶ Truly I tell you, all this will come on this generation.

³⁷”Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. ³⁸Look, your house is left to you desolate. ³⁹For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’

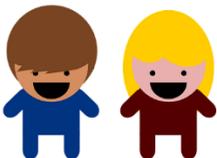
1st Thessalonians 2 v 13-16

¹³ And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.

¹⁴ For you, brothers and sisters, became imitators of God’s churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus: you suffered from your own people the same things those churches suffered from the Jews ¹⁵ who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and also drove us out.

They displease God and are hostile to everyone ¹⁶ in their effort to keep us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. In this way they always heap up their sins to the limit. The wrath of God has come upon them at last.

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Chat with the children

1. SPEAK, O LORD, AS WE COME TO YOU

to receive the food of your holy word.

Take your truth, plant it deep in us;
shape and fashion us in your likeness,
that the light of Christ might be seen today
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.

***Speak, O Lord, and fulfil in us
all your purposes for your glory.***

2. Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
holy reverence, true humility;
test our thoughts and our attitudes
in the radiance of your purity.

Cause our faith to rise; cause our eyes to see
your majestic love and authority.

***Words of power that can never fail –
let their truth prevail over unbelief.***

3. Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
help us grasp the heights of your plans for us –
truths unchanged from the dawn of time
that will echo down through eternity.

And by grace we'll stand on your promises,
and by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.

***Speak, O Lord, till your church is built
and the earth is filled with your glory.***

STUART TOWNEND & KEITH GETTY

© 2005 THANKYOU MUSIC

[PRAISE 1148]



Prayer for others

Bible Message

**The Word
at Work**



1. THOU, WHOSE ALMIGHTY WORD

chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight;
hear us, we humbly pray,
and, where the Gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light!

2. Thou who didst come to bring
on thy redeeming wing
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the in-ly blind,
O now to all mankind,
let there be light!

3. Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving holy Dove,
speed forth thy flight!
Move on the waters' face
bearing the lamp of grace,
and, in earth's darkest place,
let there be light!

4. Holy and blessed Three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might;
boundless as ocean's tide,
rolling in fullest pride,
through the world far and wide,
let there be light!

JOHN MARRIOTT © PUBLIC DOMAIN

Closing Benediction

*The grace of the **Lord Jesus Christ**
and the love of **God**
and the fellowship of the **Holy Spirit**
be with us all. Amen.*

Bible verses

Isaiah 55 v 10, 11: As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: it will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

2 Timothy 2 v 15: Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

John 15 v 20: Remember what I told you: ‘*A servant is not greater than his master.*’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.

2 Cor 6 v 10: Sorrowful, yet always rejoicing... having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Romans 9 v 2 – 4a: I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race, the people of Israel.

Romans 11 v 25: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in,

Romans 11 v 5: So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace.

Hebrews 10 v 31: It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Mark 8 v 34 – 36: Jesus called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: *'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?'*

Second Helvetic Confession **Of the Holy Scripture being the true Word of God.**

Canonical Scripture. We believe and confess the canonical Scriptures of the holy prophets and apostles of both Testaments to be the true Word of God, and to have sufficient authority of themselves, not of men. For God himself spoke to the fathers, prophets, apostles, and still speaks to us through the Holy Scriptures.

The Preaching of the Word of God is the Word of God. Wherefore when this Word of God is now preached in the church by preachers lawfully called, we believe that the very Word of God is proclaimed, and received by the faithful; and that neither any other Word of God is to be invented nor is to be expected from heaven: and that now the Word itself which is preached is to be regarded, not the minister that preaches; for even if he be evil and a sinner, nevertheless the Word of God remains still true and good.

Quotations

David J Williams: *“The promise of Jesus to his followers is not popularity but persecution.”*

William Hendricksen: *“Willingness to suffer for Christ is proof of discipleship.”*

Angus MacLeay: *“Imitating Christ is not about meditative techniques but is forged in the heat of difficulties and opposition.”*

James Philip: “The church in Thessalonica was born through the travail of the man who brought the message of the gospel there. The obstacles, the hindrances, the frustrations, the sufferings – these were the ‘shape’ of the crucible in which the instrument of blessing was forged and formed. As the poet has put it: ***“Out of the presses of pain, cometh the soul’s best wine”.***”

