



Inverurie West Parish Church

Order of Service: Sunday 18 May 2025

Welcome to worship with Inverurie West Parish Church. Whether you are joining us online or in-person; as a newcomer, occasional visitor, or regular, we are delighted to have you with us. This morning we continue to look at the actions and choices made by Jesus' followers in the early months and years after his death and resurrection. Today we will look at the Council of Jerusalem and how this meeting helped the early church in developing the right recipe for who they were going to be and what they were going to do.

Welcome and notices

Call To Worship

THE CHURCH IS WHEREVER GOD'S PEOPLE ARE PRAISING (CH4 522)

Opening Prayer (Including the Lord's prayer)

Our heavenly father
May your holy name be honoured
May your kingdom come
May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today what we really need
Forgive us the wrong we do
as we forgive those who wrong us

Lead us away from temptation
Keep us safe from evil

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours forever
Amen

Intro to the word

I AM THE CHURCH (CH4 204)

Reading: Acts 15: 1-21 read by Duncan Hamilton

Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: "Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved." 2 This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question. 3 The church sent them on their way, and as they traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, they told how the Gentiles had been converted. This news made all the believers very glad. 4 When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them.

5 Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, "The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to keep the law of Moses."

6 The apostles and elders met to consider this question. 7 After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: "Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. 8 God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. 9 He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. 10 Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear? 11 No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are."

12 The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them. 13 When they finished, James spoke up.

"Brothers," he said, "listen to me. 14 Simon has described to us how God

first intervened to choose a people for his name from the Gentiles.

15 The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written:

16

“After this I will return
and rebuild David’s fallen tent.

Its ruins I will rebuild,
and I will restore it,

17

that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord,
even all the Gentiles who bear my name,
says the Lord, who does these things’—

18

things known from long ago.

19 “It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. 20 Instead we should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood. 21 For the law of Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath.”

Reflection

JESUS CHRIST IS WAITING (CH4 360)

Prayer

ONE MORE STEP ALONG THE WORLD I GO (CH4 530)

Grace

Blessing

News

Christian Aid book sale - Thanks to all who helped support this annual event.

New website - we are delighted to share that our newly designed church website is now live! You will find it at the usual address www.inveruriwestchurch.org. Please do take a look! The WestCast/live stream address is now <https://www.inveruriwestchurch.org/live-stream> or you can find us as usual via Youtube.

Fire Alarm Testing - The Fabric Team will be testing the fire alarm after teas and coffees today. This may become a regular weekly pattern as it will save a member of the hardworking team having to come out on a separate day when the building is empty.

Pentecost - Inverurie District Churches Together will be hosting a special Pentecost service at 630pm on Sunday June 8th in the Our Lady church hall on North Street. This will be an ecumenical celebration with input from a range of churches, including ours. If you'd like to help out please speak to Rhona. And please do consider attending and supporting the spirit of Christian unity across denominations for this important shared festival.

Foodbank - We don't have a current wishlist from the Foodbank but regularly needed items include: Tinned spaghetti/macaroni, Tinned meat (hot or cold), Tinned vegetables, Tea bags (40s/80s, please), Tinned tomatoes, Small jars of coffee, Pot noodles/Mug Shots, UHT Milk (semi-skimmed or full cream)

Fundraising and Stewardship - If you regularly shop online - or even if you do so only occasionally, there is an easy way to help fundraise for the church. The first step is to register with the Easyfundraising website, at this address: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/inverurie-west-parish-church> After this, whenever you use their link to go to major retailers like Amazon, Tesco or Expedia, and make a purchase, the church gets a small donation. As an example, the last time Rhona booked a holiday, the church got £16! If you need help registering, please chat to one of the Grants team (Janet Duncan, Alison Sharp, Laura Gray, Biff Barrow, Rhona).

Practical help - if you, or anyone you know need shopping, errands etc done, we have lots of volunteers keen to help. For assistance ring Joyce

Petrie on 01467 620932 or email help@inveruriewestchurch.org

For prayer requests, joys and concerns, or content which you would like shared on Sunday, please email Rhona on r.cathcart@inveruriewestchurch.org by Saturday night, or you can text her on her mobile.

Donations to the work of the church (either nationally or to an individual congregation like ours) can be made online at <https://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/donate/11>