



The Free North Church Inverness

a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland

A GUIDE TO SUNDAY WORSHIP

11 am – Sunday 10th May 2020

Service conducted by the minister, Rev Angus MacRae.

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This is a guide to Sunday morning service. The service can be streamed online from 10 am on the Free North YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjxeX18IKP4grKdqWEt2dgw>

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 117)

Praise the Lord, all you nations;

extol him, all you peoples.

For great is his love toward us,

and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord. Amen.

PSALM 106:1-5 (Scottish Psalter version)

Give praise and thanks unto the LORD,
for bountiful is he;
His tender mercy doth endure
unto eternity.

GOD's mighty works who can express?
or show forth all his praise?
Blessèd are they that judgment keep,
and justly do always.

Remember me, LORD, with that love
which thou to thine dost bear;
With thy salvation, O my God,
to visit me draw near:

That I thy chosen's good may see,
and in their joy rejoice;
And may with thine inheritance
triumph with cheerful voice.

Tune: Warwick (CM). The Glasgow Psalm Singers.

PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

CHILDREN'S SONG: CLAP YOUR HANDS

*Clap your hands, shout for joy!
The Lord is good, the Lord is good!
Praise His name, sing out loud,
The Lord is good to me.*

Our God made heaven and earth.
Our God made you and me.
Our God loves and cares for you –

you and me (wo-oh-wo-oh).
Clap your hands...

Jesus came and lived on earth,
Jesus lived and died for me.
Jesus takes away my sin
and sets me free (wo-oh-wo-oh).
Clap your hands...

BIBLE READING: JOHN 1:35-42 (NIV)

35 The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. 36 When he saw Jesus passing by, he said,
“Look, the Lamb of God!”

37 When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. 38 Turning around, Jesus saw them
following and asked, “What do you want?”

They said, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?”

39 “Come,” he replied, “and you will see.”

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the
afternoon.

40 Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had
followed Jesus. 41 The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found
the Messiah” (that is, the Christ).42 And he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which, when
translated, is Peter).

PSALM 62:1-8 (Sing Psalms version)

My soul finds rest in God alone;
From him comes my salvation sure.
*My safety, fortress, sheltering rock—
In him alone I am secure.*

How long will you assault a man?
Do you all seek to lay him low—
This leaning wall, this tottering fence—
And bring about his overthrow?

They plan his fall from his high place;
They take delight in spreading lies.
With false and flattering mouths they bless,
But in their hearts curse and despise.

Find rest, my soul, in God alone;
In him my hope is ever sure.
*My safety, fortress, sheltering rock—
In him alone I am secure.*

My honour and salvation rest
On God, my rock and mighty fort.
O people, trust in him always;
To him alone pour out your heart.

*Tune: Herongate (LM).
Recorded at Buccleuch Free Church, Edinburgh.*

SERMON – JOHN 1:35-24: ANDREW, WILL YOU FOLLOW AND SHARE?

John’s gospel is put together with incredible precision. The “Book of Signs (7 signs; 7 teaching discourses; 7 I AM sayings) and then there is the “Book of Glory”, the chapters dealing with Jesus journey to the cross and his return to God the Father’s side. The opening two chapters have a pattern of a week of ministry, 3 days focussed on John the Baptist, then a forth day when Jesus calls some disciples, and three days leading to the first sign or miracle at Cana in Galilee. Our text covers day 3, where people call the Lord “Messiah” or “Christ” for the first time. We also read the first recorded words of Jesus in this Gospel.

1). COME, FOLLOW THE LAMB

John the Baptist’s message had an impact on two of his disciples, who started to follow Jesus as the Lamb of God. One was Andrew, the other (unnamed) was probably John who wrote this gospel. They heard good

news, and they acted. We too are being asked what we will do with Jesus? Every page in this gospel challenges us to make up our minds, and to come and follow the Lamb.

2) COME, SHARE THE LAMB

Andrew became a witness to his brother, Simon. Jesus gave Simon a new nickname, his “Rock Man”. Matthew 4:18-22 and Mark 1:16-20 seem to record a later official call into ministry for the disciples. John 1 records their first meetings with Jesus. The personal witness and encouragement of Jesus and of Andrew (and later Philip) was powerful. Sharing the gospel with family and friends is difficult and often discouraging. “Success” in evangelism is not how fruitful you are in leading many to Christ, but how faithful you are in praying and trying! If you are discouraged, keep praying and keep going.

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT TO JESUS

Dear God, before you I confess that I am a great sinner. I am guilty of breaking all your Commandments and deserve eternal judgement. But your precious gospel teaches me to know and believe that out of love you have established a Kingdom through Jesus Christ. In it you will help and show mercy to lost and condemned sinners who turn to you. So, I confess my simple faith: I am truly a sinner, but God is merciful to me. I am your enemy, but you are my friend. I deserve condemnation, yet I know that you do not want to condemn me. You want me to be blessed and to inherit heaven. This is indeed your will. You have permitted this truth to be preached to me and have commanded me to believe it. For the sake of your Son, whom you have given for me, please welcome me into your Kingdom as your child. Amen.

(From a prayer of Martin Luther)

HYMN: GO FORTH AND TELL!

Go forth and tell! O Church of God, awake!
God's saving news to all the nations take:
proclaim Christ Jesus, Saviour, Lord and King,
that all the world his worthy praise may sing.

Go forth and tell! God's love embraces all;
he will in grace respond to all who call;
how shall they call if they have never heard
the gracious invitation of his word?

Go forth and tell! where still the darkness lies;
in wealth or want, the sinner surely dies:

give us, O Lord, concern of heart and mind,
a love like yours which cares for all mankind.

Go forth and tell! the doors are open wide;
share God's good gifts, let no one be denied;
live out your life as Christ your Lord shall choose,
your ransomed powers for his sole glory use.

Go forth and tell! O church of God, arise!
Go in the strength which Christ your Lord
supplies;
go till all nations his great name adore
and serve him, Lord and King for evermore!

*Sung by Ann MacRae. Tune: Woodlands. Words: James Seddon (1915-83) © Mrs M Seddon / Jubilate Hymns.
James Seddon was a missionary in the Arabic world in North Africa in the 1940s and 50s.
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BENEDICTION

DIARY THIS WEEK

Peace 75 – visit our YouTube channel (https://youtu.be/i_ChXv2-sUg) for a 30 minute service marking the 75th Anniversary of VE Day, the end of the Second World war in Europe.

Appeal for India: The lockdown conditions in India have caused severe problems for our sisters and brothers in the Presbyterian Free Church of Central India. Most pastors, evangelists, teachers and health workers have had no income for two months. The Mission Board have opened an appeal and will match donations. If you wish to contribute you can find a link here (<https://freechurch.org/news/appeal-for-india>) or contact our local treasurer.

Sunday: There is an informal evening fellowship on Zoom and YouTube tonight at 7 pm. This will include an interview and testimony with Derek Morrison. The Meeting ID is: 253 249 2745. The regular password or phone numbers can be obtained from Martin (office@freenorthchurch.org). You can also request a regular weekly email update from the Free North Church from Martin.

Wednesday: Our Church Night fellowship is on Zoom & YouTube at 7.30 pm (same log on as for Sundays).

Saturday: The fellowship group for women in the congregation plans a catch-up meeting on Zoom this Saturday at 10:30 am. Cathy Steed will join us. Cath is on staff at HTC, and her husband Phil is pastor of the UFC in Drumchapel, Glasgow. Zoom details will go out by email and on the Women's Facebook page. Or contact Ann MacRae (annsmacrae@aol.com).

Praying around the Church: This week we pray for sister churches in Gairloch, Kinlochewe and Torridon; East Kilbride; and Christ Church, a new church plant in the west end of Glasgow.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Deacons' Court will meet online via Zoom for one item of business at 7:15 pm on Tuesday 19th May, followed at 7.30 pm by an **Equipping Seminar on Church Revitalisation and Vision** for all our deacons and elders, led by Peter Turnbull.

We plan to offer **Christianity Explored** online over 7 weeks at 8 pm on **Monday nights** from 25th May to 6th July. The course introduces Jesus through the pages of Mark's Gospel. Each session will last just over an hour. Please consider taking part and inviting your friends. Contact sandy Finlay for details (rfinlay@toucansurf.com, 01463 241765).

HERE TO HELP EACH OTHER

Many have relatives, neighbours and friends to assist during this time of lockdown. But the church is a family in Jesus Christ. We are here to help and encourage each other. If you need help of any sort, we would love to hear from you. Contact the minister (07 506 006 459; angusmacrae1967@gmail.com), any elder or deacon, or the church office (office@freenorthchurch.org) if we can help with a spiritual or practical need.

Giving to support the Free North: Donate through our website (PayPal logo at the foot of the page). To set up a standing order, post a cheque or to arrange for Gift Aid, please contact our congregational treasurer, Mrs Barbara Macphail, 31 Towerhill Avenue, Inverness, IV2 5FX. Tel: 01463 794622. Email: treasurer@freenorthchurch.org. We welcome donations to our *Development Fund* specifically to fund the post of **Women's Pastoral Worker** which we hope to create in the near future.