



# **The Free North Church Inverness**

*a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland*

-----

## **A GUIDE TO SUNDAY WORSHIP**

### **11 am – Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

*Service conducted by the minister, Rev Angus MacRae.*

*Tel: (01349) 862183. Mobile: 07 506 006 459.*

*Email: angusmacrae1967@gmail.com*

**This is a guide to Sunday morning service. The service is streamed online at 11 am on the Free North YouTube channel 9and is ten available afterwards for catch-up or to watch again):**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjxeX18IKP4grKdqWEt2dggw>

#### **WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 25)**

To you, O God, we lift up our souls. To you we offer our praise and prayer,  
our worship and thanksgiving, even our very lives.

Make your ways known to us. Show us the path on which we should walk.

Lead us in your truth and teach us. For you alone are the God who saves,  
the God in whom we trust; and the One on whom we wait. Amen.

#### **PSALM 95:1-6 (Scottish Psalter)**

O come, let us sing to the LORD:  
come, let us every one  
A joyful noise make to the Rock  
of our salvätion.

Let us before his presence come  
with praise and thankful voice;  
Let us sing psalms to him with grace,  
and make a joyful noise.

For GOD, a great God, and great King,  
above all gods he is.  
Depths of the earth are in his hand,  
the strength of hills is his.

To him the spacious sea belongs,  
for he the same did make;  
The dry land also from his hands  
its form at first did take.

O come, and let us worship him,  
let us bow down withal,  
And on our knees before the LORD  
our Maker let us fall.

*Tune: Land of Rest (CM).*

*Recorded at the General Assembly Hall  
St Columba's Free Church, Edinburgh.*

**NEWS UPDATE FROM REV CALUM MACMILLAN, ROSSKEEN / CAPSTONE / ALNESS**

**PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER**

**YOUTH FELLOWSHIP CHALLENGE**

**BIBLE READING: JOHN 2:1-12 (NIV) - read by Dorothy MacKenzie**

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there,<sup>2</sup> and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.<sup>3</sup> When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, 'They have no more wine.'<sup>4</sup> 'Woman, why do you involve me?' Jesus replied. 'My hour has not yet come.'<sup>5</sup> His

mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' <sup>6</sup> Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from eighty to a hundred and twenty litres. <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water'; so they filled them to the brim. <sup>8</sup> Then he told them, 'Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet.' They did so, <sup>9</sup> and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realise where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside <sup>10</sup> and said, 'Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now.' <sup>11</sup> What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. <sup>12</sup> After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and his disciples. There they stayed for a few days.

### CONFESSION OF SIN

*Almighty God before whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### HYMN: PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of  
creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and  
salvation!  
All you who hear, now to His temple draw near,  
Praise Him in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who so fearfully, wondrously  
made us;  
Shelters us under His wings and so gently sustains  
us:  
Have you not seen all you have needed has been  
Granted because He ordains it?

Praise to the Lord, who does prosper your work  
and defend you;  
Surely His goodness and mercy will daily attend  
you.  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,  
If with His love he befriends you.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore  
Him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with  
praises before Him!  
Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore  
Him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with  
praises before Him!  
Let the 'Amen!' sound from His people again -  
gladly because we adore Him!

*Words: Joachim Neander (1650-80). Sung by Alana Glover & Abi Marthinet-Payne (Song number 7125857)  
© 2018 Emu Music. CCL License No. 616262. CCL Streaming License No. 324811.*

### VIDEO: CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED – STARTING ONLINE AT 8 PM THIS MONDAY 25<sup>th</sup> MAY

#### SERMON – JOHN 2:1-12: JESUS, LORD OF THE FEAST

John 2 to 4 starts and ends in Cana of Galilee. In these chapters Jesus is constantly doing something NEW, replacing good things from the Old Testament with something new and better. This starts on the last day of a week introducing his ministry. It is as if Creation is being made new now the Creator is here. Jesus performed the first of seven miraculous SIGNS, changing a huge quantity of water from old ceremonial washing pots into the celebratory new wine of the New Covenant banquet.

**1). TASTE NEW WINE AT A WEDDING:** This miracle reminds us we can ask God to help with our little problems as well as our deepest needs. Jesus acted to remove the social embarrassment of a bridegroom

running out of wine at his own wedding feast. Mary asked for his help, giving the servants advice we should always obey, "do whatever he tells you"! Isaiah promised that the Messiah would bring a banquet at the end of history bringing relief and joy to the poor, the disappointed and all those in the grip of death. Tears would be wiped away for the Messiah's banquet celebrates death being swallowed up forever! (Isaiah 25:6-8). Jesus is the Lord of FESTIVAL JOY. Taste his new wine!

**2). RELISH THE LORD OF THE FEAST:** His first sign is a foretaste of the future eternal banquet. Human resources run out and leave us broken and broke. But in Isaiah 55, God invites us to a free banquet where those who relish the taste of the Messiah are satisfied. God's invitation is "COME!" The Bible is amazingly sensory. "*Taste and see that the Lord is good*" (Psalm 34:8). We long to be able to share once again in the Lord's Supper, handling, breaking, pouring, sharing and tasting the emblems of his body and his blood. Relish LIFE in the body and in a resurrection body. The Good Shepherd of John 10:10 explains his mission to bring is LIFE to the full! Jesus, the true bridegroom, invites you to be part of his Bride. Revelation 19, 21 and 22 picture the future joy of Jesus is the "wedding of the Lamb". Relish the Lord Jesus, for he relishes his bride. He is better than a job, or money, or a holiday, better even than a relationship, marriage or a family. He is enough and more than enough, for he shares his FEAST with all who respond in faith.

### HYMN: WE WILL FEAST IN THE HOUSE OF ZION

*We will feast in the house of Zion.  
We will sing with our hearts restored.  
"He has done great things," we will say together.  
We will feast and weep no more.*

We will not be burned by the fire;  
He is the LORD our God.  
We are not consumed, by the flood.  
Upheld, protected, gathered up.  
*We will feast...*

In the dark of night, before the dawn,  
My soul, be not afraid;  
For the promised morning, oh how long!  
O God of Jacob, be my strength.  
*We will feast...*

Every vow we've broken and betrayed,  
You are the Faithful One;  
And from the garden to the grave,  
Bind us together, bring shalom.  
*We will feast...*

*Sung by Ann MacRae. Words & Music Sandra McCracken & Joshua Moore. Drink Your Team Music © 2015.  
CCL License No. 616262. CCL Streaming License No. 324811.*

### BENEDICTION

---

### DIARY THIS WEEK

Sunday: There is an informal evening fellowship on Zoom and YouTube tonight at 7 pm. This will Bible Teaching on Deuteronomy 6, The Gospel Centred Family, with an update and testimony from Rev Tom Penman, minister of the Free Church in South Uist and Benbecula. The Meeting ID is: 253 249 2745. The regular password or phone numbers can be obtained from Martin ([office@freenorthchurch.org](mailto:office@freenorthchurch.org)). You can also request a regular weekly email update from the Free North Church from Martin.

Monday: **Christianity Explored** starts at 8 pm (online using the usual Zoom details for our Sunday and Wednesday Church Nights). See a 1-minute publicity video here: <https://youtu.be/9UDdKhFz5Vg>. Pass on this link to your family and friends and consider taking part and inviting a friend. Email Martin at [office@freenorthchurch.org](mailto:office@freenorthchurch.org) to register your interest. Sandy Finlay will lead the course which introduces us to Jesus through the pages of Mark's Gospel over seven weeks ([rfinlay@toucansurf.com](mailto:rfinlay@toucansurf.com), 01463 241765).

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

Generation Prayer: This week we pray for sister churches in Rosskeen and in Livonia, Michigan, USA.

### NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS

**Mission Support:** Thank you for supporting our sister church in India. As of last Tuesday, the appeal total stood at £41,000. Our deacons and elders have agreed a budget and funding policy for deep partnerships with a limited number of global mission partners and church planters. In addition to our partnership with the Merkinch Church Plant, we aim to set aside 10% of our General Fund income for Mission Support. We have agreed to partner immediately with **Mr Phil Amos**, CWI London; **Rev Patrick Jok**, Sudanese Reformed Church; and **Mr Suresh Vemulapalli**, India Village Ministries. Partnership involves a commitment to regular prayer and meaningful financial support over several years. Our leadership team hope to develop a few more such partnerships and we welcome input from the congregation on this.

**Women's Pastoral Worker:** The leadership team agreed a budget and job description for a full-time women's worker. We have interviewed a very suitable candidate with whom we are in discussion about a job offer. Please pray for the applicant and for every aspect of our pastoral work and outreach.

**Zoom:** The software used for Zoom meetings has been updated. To connect to evening meetings by Zoom please ensure you have updated to latest version on your devices by the end of May (Zoom 5.0 and above).

**YF Video Clip Challenge:** We need the consent of an adult if young people want to send in a video for the challenge. Email any clips to [jainmmacrae@aol.com](mailto:jainmmacrae@aol.com). Include the following: Name(s) of persons appearing in a clip or photo. A dated declaration that they give permission for the Free North Church to use the video or image on our website or other online platforms. (Such permission may be withdrawn in future by contacting the Session Clerk). For anyone under 18, a parent or guardian must give this consent. An email declaration from a recognised email address with the clip will be accepted as a signed consent.

At the General Assembly last week concern was raised about the impact of the public health emergency on the finances of the whole church. To avoid a deficit (which could be around £1m) the Free Church encourages each local church to remit at least as much as in 2019 to central funds. Our deacons noted this, and we will distribute a letter to all on our email database on Monday to keep our supporters informed.

### 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](mailto:angusmacrae1967@gmail.com)), any elder or deacon, or the church office ([office@freenorthchurch.org](mailto:office@freenorthchurch.org)) if we can help with a spiritual or practical need.

**Covid-19 Ness-side Support** is a community support group involving some members of our congregation and covering much of Inverness (Kinmylies to Culloden). Their direct number is 01463 353015. You can contact Julie Ferguson on 07 780 726 893 to find out more, to request help or to offer support to others in the community. The group mobilises community volunteers to help deliver shopping or prescriptions, exercise dogs, cut grass and offer emotional and practical support in any way required. It is great to support community initiatives, and important that we can ask for help when we need it.

**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](mailto: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.