



The Free North Church Inverness

a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland

A GUIDE TO SUNDAY WORSHIP

11 am – Sunday 12th July 2020

Today's Service is conducted by our minister

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This is a guide to our Sunday Morning Service, streamed online at 11 am on the Free North YouTube channel and available afterwards for catch-up. We also have a live Sunday Church Night Fellowship at 7 pm. (See: www.youtube.com/channel/UCjxeX18IKP4grKdqWEt2dgw).

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 46)

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

*Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,*

*The Lord Almighty is with us... He says, 'Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.' Amen.*

PSALM 61:1-6 (Sing Psalms version)

O hear my urgent cry, my God,
and listen to my plea.
From earth's remotest bounds I call
when my heart faints in me.

O God, conduct me to the rock
that's higher far than I.
For you're my refuge from the foe,
my tower of strength on high.

O let me dwell within your tent,
for ever there to live!

O for the shelter of your wings,
the refuge which they give!

For you have heard my vows, O God,
and you have given me
The heritage of those who fear
your name continually.

Prolong the days the king will live;
his sovereign rule extend
For many generations more,
established without end.

*Words © Free Church of Scotland. Tune: Salzburg (CM).
Recorded at St. Columba's Free Church, Edinburgh.*

PRAYER, TALK TO CHILDREN & LORD'S PRAYER

MARK 10:13-16 (NLT): One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so he could touch and bless them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering him. When Jesus saw what was happening, he was angry with his disciples. He said to them, "Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these children. I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn't receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it." Then he took the children in his arms and placed his hands on their heads and blessed them.

BE THOU MY VISION

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art –
Thou my best thought, by day or by night;
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord.
Thou my great Father; and I Thy true son
Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my battle-shield, sword for the fight;
Be Thou my dignity, Thou my delight;
Thou my soul's shelter, and Thou my high tower:
Raise Thou me heavenward, O Power of my
power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and Thou only the first in my heart,
High King of heaven, O ruler Thou art.

High King of heaven, Thy victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

*From a 6th century Old Irish hymn
attributed to Dallán Forgaill. Sung by Chris MacLeod.
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READING (Stewart Vant): JOHN 4:1-18,25-26

Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptising more disciples than John – 2 although in fact it was not Jesus who baptised, but his disciples. 3 So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee. 4 Now he had to go through Samaria. 5 So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. 7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Will you give me a drink?' 8 (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, 'You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?' (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.' 11 'Sir,' the woman said, 'you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?' 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?' 13 Jesus answered, 'Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.' 15 The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.' 16 He told her, 'Go, call your husband and come back.' 17 'I have no husband,' she replied. Jesus said to her, 'You are right when you say you have no husband. 18 The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.' 25 The woman said, 'I know that Messiah' (called Christ) 'is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.' 26 Then Jesus declared, 'I, the one speaking to you – I am he.'

SERMON – JOHN 4 – (I CAN'T GET NO) SATISFACTION

Are you thirsty? Are you satisfied with your life? The characters in John 4 teach us about spiritual thirst. **1) THE WOMAN – NEVER ENDING THIRST.** She was running on empty, a social and moral outcast trying to satisfy her deepest thirst in the temporary affections of a succession of men. Her empty water jar stands as a picture of her empty life. But a different kind of man offered her living waters to satisfy her thirst with God. **2) THE MAN – A NEVER ENDING FOUNTAIN.** Chance meetings at a well feature in biblical narratives about love and marriage. But Jesus offers a very different level of relationship to the Samaritan Woman. As he talks to her about living waters from the Holy Spirit he exposes her brokenness and sin. Jesus offers himself as the source of cleansing and satisfaction. But how could Jesus slake her thirst for love, for

purpose, and for eternal life? Only by taking on her sin and her thirst at the cross (see John 19:28). The hour of salvation (for Jews, Samaritans and all nationalities) could only come through the sacrifice of Jesus. Are you ready to bring your emptiness to his never-failing fountain, at the cross?

JESUS STRONG AND KIND

Jesus said that if I thirst,
I should come to Him.
No one else can satisfy,
I should come to Him.

Jesus said if I am weak,
I should come to Him.
No one else can be my strength,
I should come to Him.

*For the Lord is good and faithful.
He will keep us day and night.
We can always run to Jesus.
Jesus, strong and kind.*

Jesus said that if I fear,
I should come to Him
No one else can be my shield.
I should come to him.
For the Lord ...

Jesus said if I am lost,
He will come to me.
And He showed me on that cross.
He will come to me.
For the Lord...

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PRAYER

BENEDICTION & CLOSING PRAISE

(The Perfect Wisdom of Our God, sung by Olivia Ross).

DIARY, NEWS & PRAYER

Sunday Services – 11 am on YouTube, and 7 pm on Zoom and YouTube. At 7 pm we will share a film from *Christianity Explored* on Mark 4, and Brian Cameron will share his testimony. Zoom details can be obtained from Martin (office@freenorthchurch.org). Please request a weekly Free North email update from Martin.

This Sunday Donnie Macleod would value prayer as he speaks at a socially distanced “drive-in” gospel outreach event in Alness Academy car park at 7.30 pm.

Wednesday: Various monthly Home Groups plan to meet this week. There will also be a central Prayer and Bible Study on Zoom at 7.30 pm (use the same log on as for Sundays). We hope to support each other and discuss our thoughts, concerns and possible fears as we consider resuming public meetings.

Generation Prayer: Pray for sister churches in Fortrose (minister, Rev Rory Stott) and Govanhill in Glasgow (minister, Rev Kenny Boyd).

Lockdown: The Scottish Government have confirmed a staged entry in Phase 3 of the Public Health emergency. Gatherings involving a few households and individuals are now possible and churches can plan to reopen following public health advice. We have no immediate date to do so. Our local Project Group is making preparations for the safe resumption of some public gatherings and will make their recommendations to the Kirk Session on 21st July. We anticipate receiving new advice from our denomination early this week. Given the uncertainty of this time we would ask for your prayers for wisdom

and unity as we work out the best timings and arrangements to safely resume public gatherings. We must be sensitive to listen to God and learn the positive lessons of recent months. Some church activities may be very different when physical gatherings resume, and we will need to extend much grace and understanding to each other. Our priority is to maintain the worship of God and effective mission and outreach in our city. We will continue to provide opportunities for online worship and fellowship for all those unable or reluctant to return to public events when they resume.

This year the **Keswick Convention** is online from 27-31 July. Visit vkc.keswickministries.org for a programme.

The annual **Getty Sing Conference** (which requires a registration fee) is online this year from 30th August to 2nd September. See <https://gettymusicworshipconference.com> for more.

The Justice Committee of the Scottish Parliament seek views on the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill. Concern has been raised about the subjectivity of the law and possible restrictions on freedom of speech including our freedom to proclaim Jesus as the only way of salvation. You can read more from the Christian Institute (christian.org.uk). If you wish to respond to the consultation you must do so by Friday 24 July.

Mission Partners: Turkey is in the news this weekend. Pray for the small church in that land and for freedom of belief and religion. **Emma de Paula** is a UCCF Staff Worker in Edinburgh. Please pray for provision of support for the coming year. (edepaula@uccf.org.uk. Support at: www.uccf.org.uk/give/emma-de-paula).

The *Record* magazine is available for download at <https://freechurch.org/news/the-record-junejuly-2020>.

Free Church Books has a summer sale. The 'SUMMER20READS' discount code offers 25% off the recommended price of many titles. Details at <https://thefree.church/books20sale>.

Pray for physical and spiritual refreshment of children, young people and teachers over the summer.

Pray for a movement of God in our City. Give thanks for all who have heard the gospel during lockdown.

Pray for our leadership team as they consider the way forward for the work and witness of the congregation.

Guys Group: email angusmacrae1967@gmail.com if you would like a copy of Joe Barnard's book: *The Way Forward*. We hope to get a couple of discussion groups going by the end of July.

Walking Group: Derek Morrison is keen to establish an early Saturday morning walking group when possible. If this is of interest contact Derek on: derekmary@icloud.com.

HERE TO HELP 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).

Covid-19 Ness-side Support is a community support group 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 your support to others.

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 Carrie Marlow our new **Women's Pastoral Worker**. Our office-bearers have agreed to kickstart funding.