



The Free North Church Inverness

a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland

A GUIDE TO SUNDAY WORSHIP

11 am – Sunday 19th July 2020

Today's Service is conducted by our minister

Rev Angus MacRae. Tel: (01349) 862183.

Mobile: 07 506 006 459. Email: angusmacrae1967@gmail.com

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/UCjxeX18IKP4grKdqWEt2dggw).

WELCOME, CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 145:18; Isaiah 12:4)

The LORD is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on him in truth.

*Therefore let us give thanks to the LORD, call upon His name,
Make known His deeds among the peoples,
Proclaim that His name is exalted. Amen.*

PSALM 63:1-6 (Scottish Psalter version of 1650)

Lord, thee my God, I'll early seek:
my soul doth thirst for thee;
My flesh longs in a dry parched land,
wherein no waters be:

That I thy power may behold,
and brightness of thy face,
As I have seen thee heretofore
within thy holy place.

Since better is thy love than life,
my lips thee praise shall give.
I in thy name will lift my hands,
and bless thee while I live.

Ev'n as with marrow and with fat
my soul shall fillèd be;
Then shall my mouth with joyful lips
sing praises unto thee:

When I do thee upon my bed
remember with delight,
And when on thee I meditate
in watches of the night.

Sung by Chris MacLeod.

Tune: Bays of Harris

(CM, composed by the late Alex Muir).

PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

FROM THE DEPTHS OF SHAME AND SORROW (a version of PSALM 130 by Emma Turl)

From the depths of shame and sorrow,
from my guilt and my despair,
LORD, I cry to you for mercy—
be attentive to my prayer.

*All my joy is in your presence,
all my hope is in your word;*

*more than watchmen wait for morning
waits my soul for you, O LORD!*

If our sins you still remembered,
how could anyone draw near?
But with you there is forgiveness,
so we come with reverent fear.

With the LORD is love unfailing—
let his people hope in him!
With our God is full redemption,
full atonement for our sin.

*Sung by Ann MacRae. Tune: Dim Ond Iesu.
Author: Emma Turl. Praise Trust © 2000.
CCL License 616262. CCL Streaming License 324811.*

UNCOVER VIDEO FROM UCCF – JOHN 4 – DO YOU COME HERE OFTEN?

BIBLE READING (Emma de Paula): JOHN 4:27-42

27 Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no one asked, 'What do you want?' or 'Why are you talking with her?' 28 Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, 29 'Come, see a man who told me everything I've ever done. Could this be the Messiah?' 30 They came out of the town and made their way towards him. 31 Meanwhile his disciples urged him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' 32 But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you know nothing about.' 33 Then his disciples said to each other, 'Could someone have brought him food?' 34 'My food,' said Jesus, 'is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. 35 Don't you have a saying, "It's still four months until harvest"? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. 36 Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. 37 Thus the saying "One sows and another reaps" is true. 38 I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labour.' 39 Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I've ever done.' 40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. 41 And because of his words many more became believers. 42 They said to the woman, 'We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Saviour of the world.'

HARD MOMENTS – A POETIC MEDITATION BY PAUL DAVID TRIPP

SERMON – JOHN 4 – HUNGRY FOR THE HARVEST

The woman of Samaria ran to her village, asking "Could Jesus be the Messiah?" He offered himself as the thirst-quenching Saviour of a messed-up world. We can share two things about Jesus. **1). SHARE JESUS' HUNGER (FOR GOD'S WORK).** The disciples return from their shopping trip in silence. Finding Jesus in unsuitable company, they do not voice the question they were thinking about. What could Jesus WANT with this woman (v. 27)? Surely he did not hunger for her in an inappropriate way? V. 32-34 reveal Jesus' strong appetite to do the will of the Father and to finish His work. The Father's will was that the Son should reach out to save the Samaritan and her village. God wanted many in her village to become part of God's "Bride". The disciples were hungry to get away from this hostile heathen territory as quickly as their legs would carry them, but Jesus had a hunger to reach out in love to the unlovely. Do you have God's heart, hunger and passion for lost people in our city? **2). SHARE JESUS' HARVEST JOY (FOR GOD'S WORLD).** We may find God's harvest is overwhelming, but Jesus relates it all to deep joy (v. 36). Those who sow gospel seeds share in God's joy! Jesus was so excited by the approaching people from the village that he forgot all about his tiredness, hunger and thirst. He quotes a saying in v. 35, *Do you not say, "Four months more and then the harvest"? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.* For Jesus, every day was a harvest day. Even the day you sow a seed can be harvest day. Harvest time is NOW! While his disciples were fussing about lunch, God was drawing a crowd of Samaritans, recruited by one of their own people, the messiah's newest convert and evangelist! In Amos 9:13, there is a picture of glory-days in Messiah's Kingdom. He says: *'The days are coming,' declares the Lord, 'when the reaper will be overtaken by the ploughman and the planter by the one treading grapes. New wine will drip from the mountains and*

flow from all the hills..." What a wonderful jumble there is be when God acts in power! Sower and Reaper tumble over each other, both experiencing God's joy. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 9:6. *Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.* We may sow with tears. We may build on the work of others who shed tears. But harvest joy shall come! The Samaritans had Jesus with them for just two days, but he remains forever with anyone who believes the gospel. Are you finding it hard to be a witness? They mocked Jesus (8:48) calling him a Samaritan. To see the glory of God, just hunger for God's work and rejoice in His Harvest.

LIVING WATERS

Are you thirsty? Are you empty?
Come and drink these living waters.
Tired and broken, Peace unspoken,
Rest beside these living waters.
Christ is calling, find refreshing
At the cross of living waters.
Lay your life down, All the old gone,
Rise up in these living waters.

*There's a river that flows
With mercy and love,
Bringing joy to the city of our God;
There our hope is secure,
Do not fear anymore,
Praise the Lord of living waters.*

Spirit moving, mercy washing;
Healing in these living waters.
Lead your children to the shore line,
Life is in these living waters.

Are you thirsty? Are you empty?
Come and drink these living waters.
Love, forgiveness, Vast and boundless,
Christ, He is our living waters.

*Words & Music by Kristyn Getty & Ed Cash.
© 2016 Getty Music Publishing.
Sung by the High Free Church
Praise Group, Stornoway.
CCL License 616262. CCL Streaming 324811.*

PRAYER & BENEDICTION

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

DIARY, NEWS & PRAYER

Sunday Services – 11 am on YouTube (John 4:27-42 – Hungry For The Harvest), and 7 pm (Genesis 33:5 – The Children God Has Graciously Given) on Zoom and YouTube. Emma and Davi de Paula will share an update about their work with UUCF and Chalmers Church in the evening fellowship. Zoom details can be obtained from Martin (office@freenorthchurch.org). Please request a weekly Free North email update from Martin.

Tuesday: The Kirk Session will meet online at 7.30 pm.

Wednesday: Prayer and Bible Study on Zoom at 7.30 pm (use the same log on as for Sundays).

Next Sunday: Online worship at 11 am and 7 pm. Those who wish to go for a **socially distanced walk** around the river and canal basin can meet outside the church at 1 pm. Bring a picnic and check the weather forecast.

Generation Prayer: Pray this week for our sister churches at Gardenstown New Church in Banffshire (minister, Rev Robin Gray) and at Kinloch, Lewis (minister, Rev Paul Murray).

Lockdown: Our Project Group will report to the elders on Tuesday with proposals for a partial resumption of public worship in the church building. The earliest date being considered is Sunday 16th August (morning only), subject to the decision of the Kirk Session. There will be hygiene and safety rules including keeping a record of attendance, a ban on singing, and strict limits on numbers in attendance (no more than 50 are permitted presently). We expect a booking system will be required unless regulations are relaxed over

coming weeks. We will continue to provide online services on Sundays and mid-week for those who cannot or who do not wish to attend in person. We would ask for your prayers for wisdom and unity as we work out the best arrangements. 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. Please also consider meeting up with another one or two other individuals or other households to share in worship or to participate together in our online worship.

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 Bill. See christian.org.uk for details. If you wish to respond to the consultation you must do so by this Friday 24 July.

Presbytery will induct Rev Euan Dodds as minister of Kilmallie and ordain and induct Rev Peter Turnbull as minister of Burghead on Tuesday 28th July. The joint service will be held online.

Mission Partners: Pray for our **CWI** mission partner **Philip Amos** in London. Philip Amos continues to reach out regularly to Yvette, a Jewish woman in her eighties who has many questions about faith and Jesus. Remember **Patrick Jok** in South Sudan. The very repressive laws against Christians in Sudan have recently been changed including removal of the death penalty for people leaving Islam, but there is a backlash from radical Islamists. Pray for the Sudanese Reformed Church covering both Sudan and South Sudan. **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).

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

Give thanks for increased freedom to meet and have fellowship, and to work to reopen church buildings. 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).

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.