



The Free North Church Inverness

a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland

A GUIDE TO SUNDAY WORSHIP

11 am – Sunday 30th August 2020

*Sunday services at 11 am and 7 pm are conducted by our minister
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This is a guide to our Sunday Morning Service, held live in-person at the Free North Church and also broadcast online at 11 am on the Free North YouTube channel and available afterwards for catch-up.

Tonight, a short service including praise will stream on YouTube at 7 pm, followed by a Zoom fellowship at 7.30 pm.

(Subscribe to our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/channel/UCjxeX18IKP4grKdqWEt2dgw).

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 149:1-4)

Minister: Praise the Lord. Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of his faithful people.

All: Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; let the people of Zion be glad in their King.

Minister: Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with tambourine and harp.

All: For the LORD takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with victory.

Praise the LORD. Amen.

PSALM 126:1-6 (Sing Psalms Version)

When Zion's fortunes God restored,
it was a dream come true.
Our mouths were then with laughter filled,
our tongues with songs anew.

The nations said, "The LORD has done
great things for Israel."

The LORD did mighty things for us,
and joy our hearts knew well.

Restore our fortunes, gracious LORD,
like streams in desert soil.

A joyful harvest will reward
the weeping sower's toil.

The man who, bearing seed to sow,
goes out with tears of grief,
Will come again with songs of joy,
bearing his harvest sheaf.

Tune: Brother James' Air (CM).

*Words © 2003 Free Church of Scotland. Recorded at a
Psalmody Recital in Glasgow City Free Church.*

PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

This week we pray for our sister churches in **KILTARLITY, HADDINGTON & MURRAY RIVER** (PEI, Canada).

SONG OF THE MONTH: HE WILL HOLD ME FAST

When I fear my faith will fail,
Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail,
He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold

Through life's fearful path;
For my love is often cold;
He must hold me fast.
*He will hold me fast,
He will hold me fast;*

*For my Saviour loves me so,
He will hold me fast.*

Those He saves are His delight,
Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in His holy sight,
He will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost;
His promises shall last;
Bought by Him at such a cost,
He will hold me fast.

Chorus

For my life He bled and died,

Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied;
He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life,
He will hold me fast
'Till our faith is turned to sight,
When he comes at last!

Chorus

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CHURCH FAMILY UPDATE: Walk Today at UHI Campus; Guys Groups on Monday.

BIBLE READING: TITUS 1:1-9 (read by Ann MacRae)

¹ Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ to further the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness – ² in the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time, ³ and which now at his appointed season he has brought to light through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Saviour, ⁴ To Titus, my true son in our common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Saviour.

⁵ The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. ⁶ An elder must be blameless, faithful to his wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. ⁷ Since an overseer manages God's household, he must be blameless – not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. ⁸ Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. ⁹ He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

SERMON – TITUS 1:1-9 – FINISHING GOD'S WORK

Paul was a pastor who loved to appoint and support other pastors, so that the church could thrive with good leadership and pastoral care in place. He wrote to Titus, a young leader of the Church in Crete, to encourage him to keep on appointing elders to "straighten out" or complete what was left unfinished in the life of the church in that island. **1). BUILDING THE CHURCH IS GOD'S WORK.** The people of Crete were known to tell lies. But gospel workers must take their stand on God's TRUTH. That alone will lead to the gift of eternal life. God word does the work, because the God of truth cannot lie! If we wish to see the church in the UK and in Scotland flourish, God must do the work. But God works through his appointed means, including the ministry of faithful pastors and elders. Perhaps Titus had neglected the task of sharing out ministry among several other leaders? The church always needs several leaders to "straighten" out and complete God's work among us. **2). FINISHING GOD'S TASK REQUIRES GODLY OVERSEERS.** Before lockdown over 61 million in the UK and over 5 million Scots had little or no regular contact with a Christian Church. Has that changed in recent months? God can and does bring about spiritual renewal through his people. He can work through a small remnant, but it will take the WHOLE CHURCH to be equipped and encouraged to reach a whole nation. God calls leaders to supporting and enabling the whole body of Christians for their varied tasks. Are we committed to be part of the mission of God through the local church? Are we committed to serve alongside our own spiritual leaders? John Stott said, "the main way to

get a church straight or healthy is to secure for it a gifted and conscientious pastoral oversight.” As we read the Bible it becomes clear local churches should be led by a TEAM – by elders in the plural. Following the pattern set by Jesus and the first Apostles the elders should be men called to serve from among suitably qualified and gifted male members of the church. Naturally there is a huge role for lay leadership and for ministries of varied kinds carried out by both men and women, but God has chosen a pattern of male eldership in the scriptures. We humbly follow that pattern. All elders should be competent to handle the word of God so that they can teach and help the church thrive and to protect the people of God from spiritual threats. Personality matters as we select elders. Paul warns against overbearing, uncontrolled and ill-tempered people who will harm rather than help the work of God. This passage should have two impacts on us. It should lead to deep THANKFULNESS for our leaders, and to constant PRAYER for the whole church including the leaders in their tasks.

HYMN: MY HEART IS FILLED WITH THANKFULNESS

My heart is filled with thankfulness
To Him who bore my pain;
Who plumbed the depths of my disgrace
And gave me life again;
Who crushed my curse of sinfulness
And clothed me in His light
And wrote His law of righteousness
With pow'r upon my heart.

My heart is filled with thankfulness
To Him who walks beside;
Who floods my weaknesses with strength
And causes fears to fly;

Whose ev'ry promise is enough
For ev'ry step I take,
Sustaining me with arms of love
And crowning me with grace.

My heart is filled with thankfulness
To him who reigns above,
Whose wisdom is my perfect peace,
Whose ev'ry thought is love.
For ev'ry day I have on earth
Is given by the King;
So I will give my life, my all,
To love and follow him.

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BENEDICTION

DIARY, NEWS & PRAYER

IN-PERSON WORSHIP AT THE FREE NORTH: We are delighted to resume in-person worship in our church building. Initially this is limited to 50 persons on Sunday mornings at 11 am and most Wednesday evenings. Sunday evening will be an online-only service. There will be no creche or Sunday School, but families with children are welcome. Try to arrive in good time to be shown to your seat by the welcome team. If you need water bring your own water bottle and any books, bibles, or children's toys and materials that you require. The Scottish Government requires the use of facemasks for indoor church services and 2-metre social distancing. Worshipers may be seated with other household members or with someone in their social "bubble". For the first few weeks we plan to divide the congregation **by surname** into **two groups** so that as many as possible may attend. The pattern is Sunday 30th - surnames **A to MacK**; Sunday 6th surnames **MacL to Z**; Sunday 13th - surnames **A to MacK**. This guidance is flexible and is intended to avoid a "booking" system. **Visitors and folk who cannot attend when it is their "turn"** (perhaps because of travel, illness or shift work) **should feel free to attend whenever they can**. We do not wish to exclude anyone who wishes to attend or to put pressure on anyone to return, for example if they have health concerns. Online worship services will continue to be provided for those worshipping at home or in a cluster of homes. Please do not attend church if you experience any symptoms of Covid-19.

Sunday: For the next few weeks **BOTH** Morning and Evening Services will premiere on **YouTube** at 11 am and 7 pm. There will then be a Zoom-based informal fellowship after the evening service from 7.30 pm. If you attend an in person service, please arrive in good time and bring a face covering. We start a new teaching series today on Sunday mornings - **TITUS: STRAIGHTENING OUT GOD'S CHURCH**. Our evening theme is: **THE NEXT REVIVAL**. Tonight's message is on **JOEL 2 – NO PENTECOST WITHOUT REPENTANCE**. The usual Zoom log-on details can be obtained from Martin (office@freenorthchurch.org).

Sunday Walk After morning church: All are welcome to meet up at the Inverness College Campus (visitor Carpark) at 1 pm for a gentle walk. Bring a picnic. Suitable for all abilities, buggies, and kids bikes.

Today **Rev Chris Davidson** is preaching for the folk in Dingwall Free Church, in addition to his own worship with the Church Plant launch team on Sunday afternoon.

The **Faith Mission** host a **Drive-In Gospel Event** at the Black Isle Showground in Muir of Ord today at 4 pm.

Guy's Group: The next Guys groups are this Monday 31st August. It will be helpful to read pages 39-58 (Part 2 of 'The Problem') of Joe Barnard's book *The Way Forward*.

Monday: The ETS Opening Service with Rev Iver Martin will be live-streamed at 7.30 pm on ets.ac.uk/live.

Wednesday: Join us in the church or online on Zoom at 7.30 pm for a time of prayer, as we ask God for spiritual renewal and revival in our city and nation. Pray for a movement of God in our City. Give thanks for all who have heard the gospel during lockdown. Pray for our mission partners including the **Merkinch Church Plant**; **Mr Phil Amos**, Christian Witness to Israel in London; **Rev Patrick Jok**, Sudanese Reformed Church; and **Mr Suresh Vemulapalli**, India Village Ministries.

The annual **Getty Sing Conference** (which requires a registration fee) is online from today until Wednesday.

Saturday 5th September - 9 am walk with Derek Morrison. Meet at "Ord Hill" Forestry Carpark, North Kessock. The Ord Hill Circular walk (forestryandland.gov.scot/visit/ord-hill) is 2¼ miles, or 1½ hours.

The latest issue of **The Record** is available for free online at: https://issuu.com/freechurch/docs/the_record-september-20-web

The **Big Free Rally** is online this year on Saturday 26th September. As ever it will be a brilliant day full of friends, laughter, singing, Bible talks, games and activities. You don't need to have been to FCYC camps to take part – it's open to everyone in P5 upwards!

ETS Saturday Course: The new session of the Saturday Part-time Courses at ETS begins on Saturday 12 September 2020. These will be online only until face-to-face teaching is permitted. Full course information and an online registration form can be found on the ETS website: ets.ac.uk

Free Church Books has a summer sale. See <https://thefree.church/books20sale>.

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). 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 development fund donations to support Carrie Marlow our new **Women's Pastoral Worker**.