



The Free North Church Inverness

a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland

A GUIDE TO SUNDAY WORSHIP

11 am – Sunday 20th September 2020

*Sunday services at 11 am and 7 pm are 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, held live in-person at the Free North Church and broadcast online at 11 am on the Free North YouTube channel. Tonight, we will welcome our mission partner, Philip Amos from North London, who will speak at a live evening fellowship streamed on YouTube from 7 pm. Both services are available afterwards for catch-up. (Subscribe to our YouTube channel: youtube.com/c/FreeNorthChurchInverness).

WELCOME & UNISON CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 95:6-7)

Come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
He is our God; we are the people of his pasture
and the sheep of his hand. Amen.

PSALM 105:1-11 (Sing Psalms version)

Give thanks to the LORD God and call on his
name;
His wonderful deeds to the nations proclaim.
Sing praises to him, and his exploits record;
Let all those who seek him rejoice in the LORD.

You chosen ones, look to the LORD and his might;
Seek ever his face, and his wonders recite,
His miracles too, and his judgments divine—
You children of Abraham, Jacob's own line.

The LORD is our God, and he rules all the earth.

Rememb'ring his cov'nant—the word he set
forth—
He vowed, for the ages to come, to make good
His promise to Abr'ham, to Isaac renewed.

To Jacob his sov'reign decree was made sure;
With Is'el his cov'nant would always endure:
"To you I will give, as your portion to stand,
The country of Canaan, the beautiful land."

*Tune: Foundation (11.11.11.11. an old folk tune from the
American South). Words © Free Church of Scotland 2003.
Recording from Psalms for All Seasons © 2007.*

PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

This week we pray for our sister churches in **NORTH UIST & GRIMSAY, & SMITHTON, INVERNESS.**

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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BIBLE READING: TITUS 2:11-15

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹² It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. ¹⁵ These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.

SERMON – TITUS 2:11-15 – LIVING BETWEEN GRACE AND GLORY

Is there any point believing, praying or going to church? Isn't it enough to simply live a good life? Paul urged Titus to teach the Christians in Crete the good news of Jesus, because it is ultimately impossible to live a good life without the grace of God. **1). JESUS GIVES GRACE.** Grace is Bible word for the undeserved gift of God's love, a salvation that gives power to live a new life. Grace has appeared in the two great “appearings” of Jesus – when he came into this world 21 centuries ago, and the second appearance we still wait for, his return in glory. Through Jesus grace has appeared. **2). JESUS GIVES GRACE TO SAY NO!** We say no to the power of sin through grace, not through endless rules and impossible burdens. Without Jesus we can never change, and never say “no” to destructive and ungodly addictions and habits that ruin our lives. Grace teaches us to say no! **3). JESUS GIVES GRACE TO SAY YES!** The response of purity and love that Jesus provides is good news for every day of our lives. Our Christian hope is that God's grace will create a “yes” to God in our life. That yes will continue between the appearance of grace in our lives until at last God's everlasting glory appears for us. Grace is the engine that drives the Christian life forwards towards glory.

UNISON DECLARATION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and was buried;

He remained under the power of death for three days.*

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,*

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(*The Larger Catechism substitutes “under the power of death till the third day” for the traditional words of the Creed, “he descended into hell”. The phrase means Jesus was held under the power of death, not that he suffered punishment after death. The word ‘catholic’ in the Creed means universal or global and applies to the whole Christian Church).

HYMN: HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE

How deep the Father's love for us;
How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss;
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;

His dying breath has brought me life;
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart –
His wounds have paid my ransom.

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BENEDICTION

DIARY, NEWS & PRAYER

IN-PERSON WORSHIP AT THE FREE NORTH: We are delighted to offer in-person worship in our church building on Sunday mornings and some Wednesday evenings. Initially this is limited to 50 persons. Sunday evenings continue to be an online-only service. We will review youth work and consider resuming creche and Sunday School after the October break, but families with children are welcome to come to church. 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 indoors. Worshippers 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 20th - surnames **MaL to Z**; Sunday 27th - 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. **We have always had some spare capacity through the past month so you will not be taking a place from someone else**. Online worship services will continue to be provided for those worshipping at home or in a social bubble. Please do not attend church if you experience any symptoms of Covid-19.

Online Services on Sunday 20th: In addition to an in-person Sunday morning service at 11 am, an online service will premiere on **YouTube** at 11 am and there will be a **Live Evening Fellowship** on YouTube at 7 pm, featuring our mission partner **Philip Amos of CWI** in North London. Covid-19 has made personal evangelism difficult but Philip has been making contact with new enquirers through text messaging and by distributing leaflets. While he receives some opposition and abuse, he is also helping many to know Jesus as the Messiah.

Monday: The **Guys Groups** are due to meet on 21st September at 10.30 am and 7 pm. It will be helpful to have read pages 59-74 of Joe Barnard's book, *The Way Forward*. **As the Scottish and UK Governments have restricted meetings to no more than 6 people from 2 households it is necessary to hold both the 10.30 am and the 7 pm Guys Groups online on Zoom.**

Tuesday: The Kirk Session will meet online at 7.30 pm (usual Zoom log on).

Wednesday: A time of prayer and Bible Study at 7.30 pm (in person at the church and on Zoom). Our apologies for the very poor sound quality on Zoom on Wednesday 9th September.

Saturday: The **Big Free Rally** is online this Saturday 26th. You don't need to have been to FCYC Camps to take part – it's open to everyone in P5 upwards!

Plans for the future: Subject to the agreement of the Kirk Session, from October we are considering moving the online evening service to 6 pm and only having a Zoom Fellowship twice a month (one with a speaker and one focussed on prayer for the City). We are considering having a Zoom only Prayer meeting or homegroups on the first and third Wednesday of the month. Despite the challenges of public health restrictions, we will also plan some *Invitation Services* over the autumn and winter, so you can invite a friend to church or to your home to experience church online with you and your household.

Our Sunday morning teaching series is on **TITUS: STRAIGHTENING OUT GOD'S CHURCH**.

Log-on details for our regular Zoom meetings can be obtained from Martin (office@freenorthchurch.org).

Our **Congregational Newsletter for September** is available (as a file or as a paper copy).

Download **The Record** at: https://issuu.com/freechurch/docs/the_record-september-20-web

Emma de Paula's September UCCF Newsletter is now available. Please pray for Emma.

Free Church Books recommends "*Wherever You Go, I Want You To Know*", a new book ideal for children. See: <https://thefree.church/books-whenever>.

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).

The URL for our **YouTube channel** has changed to the clearer: youtube.com/c/FreeNorthChurchInverness.

Pray that our church family would be a holy people as we live in a world that is not holy and that even mocks holiness. Ask the Lord to strengthen our commitment to pursue holiness daily and to reflect His character to one another and to the world around us.

Please keep Annie MacLean and her family in prayer, following the sudden death of her sister-in-law in Lewis.

You can join in prayer with **Merkinch Free Church** from 5:30 to 6:30 pm on Saturday 26th September. Email admin@merkinchfc.com for Zoom log-on details.

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**. Please pray for Carrie as she prepares to relocate to Inverness and begin her work this October.