



The Free North Church Inverness

a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland

A GUIDE TO SUNDAY WORSHIP

11 am – Sunday 4th October 2020

*Sunday services at 11 am and 6 pm are conducted by our minister
Rev Angus MacRae. Tel: (01463) 832616. Mobile: 07 506 006 459.*

Email: angusmacrae1967@gmail.com

This is a guide to our 11 am **Sunday Morning Service**, held live in-person at the Free North Church and broadcast online the Free North YouTube channel. Note the new earlier time of our **“Sundays at 6”** Evening Service, available only on YouTube. This will be followed by a time of informal fellowship and **Prayer for the City** on the Zoom platform.

Both our Sunday services are available afterwards for catch-up.

(Subscribe to our YouTube channel: youtube.com/c/FreeNorthChurchInverness).

WELCOME & UNISON 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 139 (New Scottish Hymns version)

Were I to cross from land to land
Or sail afar by sea,
Descend the depths or climb the heights,
My Lord remains with me.

Before the blood ran in these veins,
The days ordained for me
Were written in your book, O Lord,
Before I came to be.

I grieve to hear your enemies
Speak hatred, Lord, of You
Long though they scheme with ill-intent,
Their days are numbered too.

How precious are your thoughts to me,
How countless, Lord, they are;

More than the shores have grains of sand,
More than the skies have stars.

Come search and test this heart, O Lord;
Dispel each anxious thought
And lead me onward evermore
To tread the path I ought.

How blessed am I, so bound with love,
Surrounded, yet so free;
In doubt or blessing, life or death,
My Lord remains with me.

*Version of Psalm 139 by New Scottish Hymns.
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PRAYER & LORD’S PRAYER

This week we pray for our sister churches in **MUIR OF ORD & in KIRKCALDY**.

WELCOME & COMMISSIONING OF CARRIE MARLOW, OUR NEW WOMEN’S PASTORAL WORKER

After Carrie responds to her questions, the response of the congregation to their questions is: **“WE DO”**.

PSALM 121 (Scottish Psalter version)

I to the hills will lift mine eyes,
from whence doth come mine aid.
My safety cometh from the LORD,
who heav'n and earth hath made.

Thy foot he'll not let slide, nor will
he slumber that thee keeps.
Behold, he that keeps Israel,
he slumbers not, nor sleeps.

The LORD thee keeps, the LORD thy shade
on thy right hand doth stay:
The moon by night thee shall not smite,
nor yet the sun by day.

The LORD shall keep thy soul; he shall
preserve thee from all ill.
Henceforth thy going out and in
GOD keep for ever will.

*Tune: Elijah. Sung by the Lochbroom Free Church singers.
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BIBLE READING: TITUS 3:8-15 (read by Effie Finlay)

⁸This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone. ⁹But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless. ¹⁰Warn a divisive person once, and then warn them a second time. After that, have nothing to do with them. ¹¹You may be sure that such people are warped and sinful; they are self-condemned. ¹²As soon as I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, because I have decided to winter there. ¹³Do everything you can to help Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way and see that they have everything they need. ¹⁴Our people must learn to devote themselves to doing what is good, in order to provide for urgent needs and not live unproductive lives. ¹⁵Everyone with me sends you greetings. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all.

SERMON – TITUS 3:8-15 – LIVING THE LIFE OF GRACE.

How should Christians live life in the light of God's grace? The closing verses of Titus do not run out of steam as they describe grace-filled living. **1). DON'T LET QUARRELS DIVERT YOU FROM GRACE (9).** Divisive Jewish false teachers threatened the unity of the church in Crete, sapping pastoral energy. In our time we must learn how to disagree well, in an uncontentious and Christlike way. **2). SET BIBLICAL LIMITS ON YOUR PATIENCE (10-11).** Show grace and patience with troublemakers. But after a second warning, if there is no evidence of learning or repenting, have nothing more to do with cranky people. A warped piece of wood is useless as a guide to cut a straight line. Similarly, have the courage to challenge and shut-down warped and foolish arguments. **3). WIN THE WORLD BY DOING GOOD (8,12-15).** (a) TITUS, DO SOMETHING GOOD! The letter ends with Paul's 9th and 10th instructions to DO what is GOOD! The gospel alone produces a good life. Ironically, moralistic churches that stress good works lack the power of grace to produce godly changed lives. (b) CHURCH, DO SOMETHING GOOD! We will only win the world for the gospel as we act together as a TEAM. There was no competitiveness between Paul, Titus, Zenas or Apollos. They helped each other and every member of the church to devote their lives to doing good. For us, in this Covid-19 season, we can do good by turning up (in person or online) to participate in encouraging others and in spreading the gospel. Life is so short, so plan how to be an evangelist even in a mini-lockdown.

CHURCH FAMILY UPDATE

SERVICE TIMES: We warmly welcome Carrie Marlow to Inverness. From tonight our evening service will move to the new time of 6 pm (online on YouTube). This will be followed tonight by informal fellowship and Prayer for the City on Zoom. This week our Wednesday Church Night will be online only at 7.30 pm. (Always

online only on the first and third Wednesdays of each month). The minister and his family expect to move to their new home (at 19 Mingary Crescent, Inverness, IV2 6FQ) this Wednesday.

HYMN: SHOW US CHRIST

Prepare our hearts, O God.
Help us to receive.
Break the hard and stony ground.
Help our unbelief.
Plant Your Word down deep in us;
cause it to bear fruit.
Open up our ears to hear,
lead us in Your truth.

*Show us Christ, show us Christ.
O God, reveal Your glory
through the preaching of Your Word.
Until every heart confesses Christ is Lord.*

Your Word is living light
upon our darkened eyes.
Guards us through temptations,
makes the simple wise.

Your Word is food for famished ones,
Freedom for the slave.
Riches for the needy soul.
Come speak to us today.

Show us Christ...

Where else can we go, Lord?
Where else can we go?
You have the words of eternal life.

Show us Christ...

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BENEDICTION

DIARY, NEWS & PRAYER

IN-PERSON WORSHIP AT THE FREE NORTH: We offer in-person worship on Sunday mornings and on some Wednesday evenings. **Families with children are always welcome to come to church (for all or part of the service) and a Sunday School for Primary age children is available in the fellowship area.** 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". We divide the congregation **by surname** into **two groups** so that as many as possible may attend. The pattern is Sunday 4th October - surnames **MaCl to Z**; Sunday 11th October - surnames **A to MacK**. This guidance is flexible and 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 any Sunday that they can even if it is not their "turn"**. 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. **Please do not attend church if you experience any symptoms of Covid-19.**

Tuesday: The General Assembly will meet (online) for one day of urgent business starting from 9 am.

Wednesday: An all-church family time of prayer and Bible Study at 7.30 pm (on Zoom only).

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

Next Sunday we will be joined at 11 am by **Rob Ilderton**, UK Team leader of Mission to the World, a global ministry of the PCA. The evening service will be led by **James Blackwell**, a student at ETS.

Guys Groups: It has become apparent that not everyone was aware all the men in our congregation were welcome to be a part of the studies of Joe Barnard's book, *The Way Forward*. Chris MacLeod is going to run catch-up sessions via zoom for any who missed out. **Email Martin** at office@freenorthchurch.org to get details of **Chris MacLeod's Zoom meetings**. These will take place across October on the following dates: 6th – 7 pm (pages 7-38); 14th – 11 am (pages 39-58); 20th – 7 pm (pages 59-74); 26th – 11 am (pages 75-86). Angus will run Session 4 on Monday 12th October at 10 am and 7 pm on "*Men Need Clarity*" from pages 75-86. Copies of Joe's Book and a *Study Guide* are available at church. The guide can be sent by email.

Copies of *Explore* daily Bible reading notes are available (for October to December). These can be picked up at church or sent to you. Suggested donation, £3.

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

Despite the challenges of public health restrictions, we plan some *Invitation Services* over the autumn and winter, so you can invite a friend to church (or invite a friend to online church).

Videos from the **Big Free Rally** are on the Camps YouTube channel - youtube.com/freechurchyouthcamps.

Govan Free Church was planted seven years ago by Rev Norman Mackay and his team in a very deprived and spiritually needy area of Glasgow. Their latest newsletter is available here: my.flipbookpdf.net/27q7o.

Free Church Books' Book of the Month is Edward T. Welch's '*A Student's Guide to Anxiety*'. This super short, super cheap little book could provide a flash of hope to any students you know, whether they're still at home or back at university and struggling. It would also benefit anyone dealing with anxiety. Priced £2.54 – read more at: <https://thefree.church/books-anxiety>.

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).

Pray for the Free North church family, that we might grow in maturity, hold to the truth of Scripture and keep going even when we get weary. May what we hear of Jesus shape our lives as we follow him. Pray too that we would not keep the gospel to ourselves but go and share.

Pray for Carrie Marlow, as she gets to know our congregation and our City.

Pray for all facing illness and for joy and healing according to God's will. Helen has surgery this Thursday.

As we pray about Covid-19, pray that people will be considering eternal realities and that the Holy Spirit would be working in hearts and minds to bring many to Christ.

Pray with our partners in Merkinch for wisdom to connect or reconnect and for many doors to open for the gospel in that part of our City.

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