



# The Free North Church Inverness

a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland

## A GUIDE TO SUNDAY WORSHIP

11 am – Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021

Sunday services today at 11 am and at 6 pm are **ONLINE ONLY**  
and conducted by Rev Innes MacSween and Rev Wes Strebeck

Our minister is on holiday for 2 weeks. (Rev Angus MacRae. Tel: (01463) 832616.

Mobile: 07 506 006 459. Email: [angusmacrae1967@gmail.com](mailto:angusmacrae1967@gmail.com)).

Carrie Marlow - Women's Pastoral Worker contacts:

[carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org](mailto:carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org) or 07583 498782.

We have sadly been forced to suspend all live in-person Sunday worship at the Free North Church. There is no in-person service this weekend or next weekend (10<sup>th</sup> January 2021) to comply with public health restrictions announced by the Scottish Government. The elders will shortly take decisions on resuming in-person services in the light of advice given to public bodies. You will find Morning and Evening services on our YouTube channel at 11 am and 6 pm and available afterwards for catchup. (Subscribe to our YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/c/FreeNorthChurchInverness](http://www.youtube.com/c/FreeNorthChurchInverness)).

### Services today:

11 am – Rev Innes MacSween – Luke 18:9-14

6 pm – Rev Wes Strebeck – Psalm 113

### MORNING SERVICE OUTLINE

#### PRAISE: YET NOT I BUT THROUGH CHRIST IN ME

What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer,  
There is no more for heaven now to give,  
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom,  
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.

*To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus,*

*For my life is wholly bound to his.*

*Oh, how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine!*

*Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken,  
For by my side, the Saviour He will stay;  
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing,  
For in my need, His power is displayed.

*To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me,*

*Through the deepest valley He will lead,*

*Oh, the night has been won, and I shall overcome!*

*Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven,  
The future sure, the price it has been paid.

For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,  
And He was raised to overthrow the grave.

*To this I hold, my sin has been defeated,  
Jesus now and ever is my plea.*

*Oh, the chains are released, I can sing: I am free!*

*Yet not I, but through Christ in me.*

With every breath I long to follow Jesus,  
For He has said that He will bring me home;  
And day by day I know He will renew me,  
Until I stand with joy before the throne.

*To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus;*

*All the glory evermore to Him.*

*When the race is complete, still my lips shall  
repeat:*

*Yet not I, but through Christ in me!*

*When the race is complete, still my lips shall  
repeat:*

*Yet not I, but through Christ in me!*

## PRAYER

### BIBLE READING: LUKE 18:9-14

<sup>9</sup>To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: <sup>10</sup>“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup>The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup>I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ <sup>13</sup>“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’ <sup>14</sup>“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

### PRAISE: PSALM 51:1-9 (Sing Psalms)

O my God, have mercy on me  
in your steadfast love, I pray;  
In your infinite compassion  
my transgressions wipe away.  
Cleanse me from iniquity;  
wash my sin away from me.

For I know my own transgressions;  
I can see my sinful plight.  
You, you only, I’ve offended,  
and done evil in your sight;  
So your words are verified,  
and your verdict justified.

From my birth I have been sinful—  
such the nature I received—  
Sinful from my first beginning  
in my mother’s womb conceived.  
Truth you look for in my heart;  
wisdom to me you impart.

Cleanse with hyssop, purify me;  
I’ll be whiter than the snow.  
Let the bones you crushed be joyful;  
may I joy and gladness know.  
From my failure hide your face;  
blot out all my wickedness.

*Words Free Church of Scotland, 2003.  
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### SERMON: WILL YOU BE HUMBLLED OR EXALTED?

#### PRAISE: WHAT CAN WASH AWAY MY SIN?

What can wash away my sin?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;  
What can make me whole again?  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Oh! precious is the flow  
that makes me white as snow;  
No other fount I know,  
nothing but the blood of Jesus.

For my cleansing this I see,  
nothing but the blood of Jesus;  
For my pardon this my plea,  
nothing but the blood of Jesus. (Chorus)

Nothing can my sin erase,  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus;  
Naught of works, ‘tis all of grace,  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my hope and peace,  
nothing but the blood of Jesus;  
This is all my righteousness,

nothing but the blood of Jesus.

*Words: Robert Lowry. Sung by Olivia Ross.*

## BENEDICTION

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**SUNDAY AT SIX – Rev Wes Strebeck PSALM 113**  
**on our YOUTUBE CHANNEL at 6 PM tonight.**  
*(No Sunday night fellowship on Zoom tonight).*

Praise tonight: Psalm 113 (Sing Psalms); Consider Christ.

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## DIARY, NEWS & PRAYER

We wish you all God's grace and blessing in the coming year. Thank you for supporting the life and witness of the Free North Church family over the past year. May God be honoured and praised by all his people across our city and nation and may many find faith in Jesus Christ in the days to come. Our minister is taking two weeks off at the start of 2021. Carrie will also be taking some time off during the Tier-4 restrictions.

We extend our deep sympathy and love to Mrs Belle Stewart, following the death of Bob on 29<sup>th</sup> December. The funeral will take place on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January (under the present Tier-4 restrictions limiting attendance). The service will also be online at 12.30 pm at the website of John Fraser and Sons, funeral directors.

**IN-PERSON WORSHIP AT THE FREE NORTH:** Our Sunday meetings are **ONLINE ONLY** this week and next weekend to comply with public health restrictions announced by the Scottish Government. **We do plan to offer SOME SMALL GATHERINGS in the church hall for in-person worship. Please DO NOT attend church if you experience any symptoms of Covid-19.** We maintain a discrete record of all who attend for contact tracing. When you come to church try to arrive in good time and bring a face covering (unless exempt). Bring your own water bottle and any books, bibles, or children's toys and materials that you may require. Worshippers may be seated with household members or with someone in their social "bubble".

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>** - Join us online only this Wednesday at 7.30 pm on Zoom for Prayer and Bible Study conducted by Sandy Finlay. Log in with the usual details.

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup>** - We meet in the church hall this Friday at 11 am for a short time of prayer and bible teaching, conducted by an office-bearer. Up to 20 people may attend.

**Next Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January:** Services are online only. 11 am – Mr Donnie MacLeod. 6 pm – Rev Wesley Strebeck, of Christ the King PCA, Wilmington, North Carolina. Wes hopes to join the Merkinch church plant team in summer 2021.

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>** - Meeting in-person in the church hall and online for prayer and study at 7.30 pm. Up to 20 people may attend.

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup>** - Prayer in-person in the church hall at 11 am. Up to 20 people may attend.

**The Record magazine:** The Deacons' Court have decided not to charge existing subscribers for their *Record* in 2021. Please advise Martin McLean at the Church Office to set up a new subscription.

**Explore Daily Reading notes:** Copies for January to March are now available to help with daily Bible reading. Suggested donation £3. Contact Angus or Effie if you would like a copy posted through your letterbox.

If you need help of any sort, we would love to hear from you. Contact the minister (07 506 006 459; [angusmacrae1967@gmail.com](mailto:angusmacrae1967@gmail.com)), any elder or deacon, or the church office ([office@freenorthchurch.org](mailto:office@freenorthchurch.org)).

**Year-End Finances:** A letter is available from the Treasurer giving an update on our giving to the central funds of the church. Sincere thanks to all who have supported our work in this most difficult year. To donate visit our website or contact our treasurer, Barbara Macphail. (01463 794622, [treasurer@freenorthchurch.org](mailto:treasurer@freenorthchurch.org)).

### PRAYER GUIDE – JANUARY 2021

In January, Free Church congregations are praying for Dunfermline, Carloway, Lochbroom, Edinburgh - Buccleuch, the Inverness - Merkinch Church Plant, Arran, Dornoch, Bishopbriggs, Grace Church Montrose, Leverburgh in South Harris, and Inverness - Free North.

Thank God for helping us through a difficult and uncertain year. Pray that as we begin this New Year our hearts and minds will be directed towards God. May we always remember Christ is our greatest treasure, as with him there is great and certain hope. Pray that we grow in knowledge and love for Him, putting sin to death each day.

Lift up to the Lord **John MacAulay** in his new duties as Presbytery Clerk, **Brian Cameron** our new Session Clerk, and **Stewart Vant** our new Clerk to the Deacons' Court. Pray for these men as they give leadership and serve the body of Christ.

Remember graduates, students and lecturers at **Dumisani Theological Institute** (South Africa). Many regularly conduct funerals and care for bereaved families due to AIDS and the Covid pandemic.

Remember our key mission partners including **Emma De Paula** (UCCF), **Philip Amos** (International Mission to Jewish People, London; formerly CWI), **Suresh & Roja Vemulapilli** of India Village Ministries and **Patrick Jok** (of the Reformed Church in South Sudan).

Pray that as a church family we would be eager to reach out to others, sharing hospitality and support as we are able within the tier-4 restrictions.

Pray for parents in our Church family, for patience and wisdom in raising their children, that they might grow as disciples and that their lives may be shaped by the gospel. Ask the Lord to help parents prioritise Sundays and prayer with and for their children, even when worship is online.

Lift up to the Lord Belle Stewart and all bereaved families and those who have been unwell or in hospital, and those being cared for in nursing homes.

Pray for opportunities to **read the Bible one-to-one** with others in 2021, and for outreach initiatives to open us over the coming months.