



# **The Free North Church Inverness**

*a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland*

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## **A GUIDE TO SUNDAY WORSHIP**

**11 am – Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021**

*Sunday services today at 11 am and at 6 pm are **ONLINE ONLY** conducted by our minister Rev Angus MacRae. Tel: (01463) 832616.*

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

*Carrie Marlow - Women's Pastoral Worker contacts:*

*carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org or 07583 498782.*

We have suspended all in-person worship at the Free North Church for the whole of February in response to Government public health regulations. For the present all our services are ONLINE only. We will advise you of any changes as the situation develops, and in light of government announcements expected this Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February. We hope it will be possible to resume in-person worship sometime in March. You will find our Morning and Evening services on our YouTube channel at 11 am and 6 pm. (Available afterwards for catchup. Subscribe to the channel at: [www.youtube.com/c/FreeNorthChurchInverness](http://www.youtube.com/c/FreeNorthChurchInverness)).

### **WELCOME & DOXOLOGY**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

*Thomas Ken (1637-1711). Melody – The Old Hundredth.*

### **NEW CITY CATECHISM (Q. 48) ASKS: WHAT IS THE CHURCH?**

God chooses and preserves for himself a community elected for eternal life and united by faith, who love, follow, learn from, and worship God together. God sends out this community to proclaim the gospel and prefigure Christ's kingdom by the quality of their life together and their love for one another.

### **A PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH**

King Over All, you have brought us together as the family of God.

Keep us faithful to worship together, to love one another, and to provide for each other's needs.

Let our fellowship be genuine, and help us to spur one another on in the faith. Amen.

### **HYMN: REJOICE, THE LORD IS KING!**

Rejoice, the Lord is King!  
Your Lord and King adore:  
mortals, give thanks and sing,  
and triumph evermore:  
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:  
Rejoice! Again I say, rejoice!*

Jesus, the Saviour, reigns,  
the God of truth and love;  
when He had purged our stains  
He took his seat above:

His kingdom cannot fail,

He rules o'er earth and heaven.  
The keys of death and hell  
are to our Jesus given.

He sits at God's right hand,  
till all His foes submit  
and bow to His command  
and fall beneath His feet:

Rejoice in glorious hope!  
Jesus the Judge shall come  
and take His servants up  
to their eternal home:

*We soon shall hear the archangel's voice;  
The trump of God shall sound, Rejoice!  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:  
Rejoice! Again I say, rejoice!*

*Sung by Phil Percival, Alanna Glover, Liv Chapman,  
Emu Music, St Ebbe's, Oxford. Charles Wesley (1707-  
88). CCL License 616262. CCL Streaming 324811.*

### **TALK TO CHILDREN – WONDER WALKS (SEE SCOTTISH BIBLE SOCIETY)**

In the weeks before Easter, families can download six activity guides with Bible readings and ideas for a family walk (See <https://scottish.bible/wonderwalks/>). Perhaps you could do a walk together on a Saturday or a Sunday afternoon, and talk together about what you see and hear as well as the Bible story?

**FEBRUARY BOOK OF THE MONTH: 'PRAY BIG' BY ALISTAIR BEGG.** Order a copy from Carrie for £5.

### **PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER**

This week Free Church congregations are praying for **Maryburgh & Killearnan** and **Hope Church, Blackwood & Kirkmuirhill**, South Lanarkshire. Next week we will pray for Dingwall & Strathpeffer, Charleston Community Church in Dundee, and Covenant Church, Newmilns in East Ayrshire.

### **BIBLE READING: NAHUM 1**

<sup>1</sup> A prophecy concerning Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite. <sup>2</sup> The Lord is a jealous and avenging God; the Lord takes vengeance and is filled with wrath. The Lord takes vengeance on his foes and vents his wrath against his enemies. <sup>3</sup> The Lord is slow to anger but great in power; the Lord will not leave the guilty unpunished. His way is in the whirlwind and the storm, and clouds are the dust of his feet. <sup>4</sup> He rebukes the sea and dries it up; he makes all the rivers run dry. Bashan and Carmel wither and the blossoms of Lebanon fade. <sup>5</sup> The mountains quake before him, and the hills melt away. The earth trembles at his presence, the world and all who live in it. <sup>6</sup> Who can withstand his indignation? Who can endure his fierce anger? His wrath is poured out like fire; the rocks are shattered before him. <sup>7</sup> The Lord is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him, <sup>8</sup> but with an overwhelming flood he will make an end of Nineveh; he will pursue his foes into the realm of darkness. <sup>9</sup> Whatever they plot against the Lord he will bring to an end; trouble will not come a second time. <sup>10</sup> They will be entangled among thorns and drunk from their wine; they will be consumed like dry stubble. <sup>11</sup> From you, Nineveh, has one come forth who plots evil against the Lord and devises wicked plans. <sup>12</sup> This is what the Lord says: 'Although they have allies and are numerous, they will be destroyed and pass away. Although I have afflicted you, Judah, I will afflict you no more. <sup>13</sup> Now I will break their yoke from your neck and tear your shackles away.' <sup>14</sup> The Lord has given a command concerning you, Nineveh: 'You will have no descendants to bear your name. I will destroy the images and idols that are in the temple of your gods. I will prepare your grave, for you are vile.' <sup>15</sup> Look, there on the mountains, the feet of one who brings good news, who proclaims peace! Celebrate your festivals, Judah, and fulfil your vows. No more will the wicked invade you; they will be completely destroyed.

### **SING PSALMS 113:1-9**

O praise, you servants of the LORD;  
Sing praises to his holy name.  
O blessed be the name of God;  
His praise for evermore proclaim.  
From east to west the praise of God  
Each day is to be spread abroad.

The LORD is high above the earth,  
His glory far above the sky.  
Who else is like the LORD our God,  
The one who sits enthroned on high?

He is the one who stoops down low  
To look on heav'n and earth below.

He raises outcasts from the dust  
And from the ash-heap lifts the poor,  
Exalting them to dignity,  
With noblemen to sit secure.

The childless woman he'll reward  
With home and children. Praise the LORD!

*Sing Psalms Version © Free Church of Scotland, 2003.  
Tune: Sagina. Sung by Hamish MacDonald..*

## SERMON: WHY NINEVEH & SCOTLAND MUST FALL

100 years after Jonah's time, God's patience with Nineveh finally ran out. Nahum carried the message or "burden" of final their destruction. **1). THE BURDEN OF JUDGEMENT.** Because God is good and holy, Nineveh must fall. It was a burden to warn that cruel city of destruction. A warning also comes to us and to all who ignore God, or who go on in violence and sin. Along with Nineveh, must unbelieving Scotland also fall? **2). THE PURPOSE OF JUDGEMENT.** God's character is completely just. He is jealous and avenging, because he is perfectly good and holy. Palmer Robertson says, "God's jealousy consumes but it also redeems." Victims of injustice and God's martyrs rightly long for God's justice (see Rev. 6:10). Sometimes God delays his justice, to give us time to repent. But by waiting, God is not doing nothing! His ultimate purpose, in waiting or in acting, is to provide salvation. It is in Jesus and at the cross we properly see the wrath and judgement of God being poured out. Jesus willingly took the penalty for sin. God really is like Jesus - a God of holy wrath and of holy love. Trust Nahum's words: "the Lord is good". Find your refuge in him, or prepare to face his justice.

### HYMN: THY MERCY, MY GOD

Thy mercy, my God, is the theme of my song,  
The joy of my heart. and the boast of my tongue;  
Thy free grace alone, from the first to the last,  
Hath won my affections, and bound my soul fast.

Without Thy sweet mercy I could not live here;  
Sin would reduce me to utter despair;  
But, through Thy free goodness, my spirits revive,  
And He that first made me still keeps me alive.

Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart,  
Which wonders to feel its own hardness depart;  
Dissolved by Thy goodness, I fall to the ground,  
And weep to the praise of the mercy I've found.

Great Father of mercies, Thy goodness I own,  
And the covenant love of Thy crucified Son;  
All praise to the Spirit, Whose whisper divine  
Seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness  
mine.

*Words: John Stocker (1776). Melody and recording by Sandra McCracken © 2001 Same Old Dress Music.*

*Recorded at Covenant Presbyterian Church, Nashville, TN.*

*Recording featuring Sandra McCracken, Joseph Bradshaw, and Paul Nelson. CCL Streaming 324811.*

After morning service on YouTube why not log onto Zoom for a 15-minute informal "coffee and chat" catch up. Use the usual Zoom log-in details.

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### SUNDAY AT SIX – on our YOUTUBE CHANNEL at 6 PM tonight.

*Gospel 2021 - The Gospel is: Our Treasure, Our Passion and Our Vision.*

#### Tonight: Genesis 3 – KINGDOM VISION FOR A FALLEN WORLD

**Seumas MacLeod** will share about his faith in an after-church fellowship on Zoom tonight.

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### DIARY, NEWS & PRAYER

We are sorry in-person services are suspended this month due to the public health regulations. Please get in touch if you need help or are aware of pastoral and practical needs in the church family. Carrie has produced a helpful guide to using ZOOM, available to anyone on request.

**Today:** Morning service is live streamed from the church at **11 am**, following up our studies in Jonah with a short look at the neglected book of **Nahum**. Pray for the Audio-Visual Team as they gain experience using the new equipment. **Youth Alpha** is at 10 am on Sunday mornings FOR Secondary age young people. Details from Fiona Cameron (fionamarion@yahoo.co.uk) or the church office (office@freenorthchurch.org). After morning service join us on Zoom for a 15-minute "coffee-time" catch up at around 12 noon.

**Tonight:** After **Sunday at Six** there is an **Interview and Testimony** with **Seumas MacLeod** on Zoom. The Free Church Moderator has joined an inter-denominational call for **Prayer for the Nation** from 7 pm tonight.

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>** – The local Presbytery linking leaders from over 20 of our congregations meets at 7 pm.

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>** - **Wednesday Church Night** for prayer, praise and Bible Study, at 7.30 pm on Zoom.

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>** - the **Ladies' Bible Study** meets at 10:30 am and 7:45 pm. This week we'll be studying 1 Peter 2:4-10. All are welcome. Speak to Carrie for Zoom details (carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org or 07583498782). Remaining dates this term: 11th and 25th March.

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup>** - We meet online on Zoom on Friday at 11 am for 30 minutes of prayer and Bible reading, conducted by an office-bearer. Use the usual log on details.

**Next Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>** - We will welcome Dr Jamie Grant from HTC as our guest preacher next weekend.

**Thanks:** Norman and Vina Campbell wish to thank all the friends in the congregation for their kindness during Vina's recent illness. Your cards, telephone calls, doorstep visits and practical support are greatly appreciated. We give a special thanks to those who prayed for us. Covid-19 restrictions have made your caring support all the more meaningful to us. God bless you all. *"Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; his love endures for ever."*

**Marmalade:** Jane MacLeod has both Seville and Three Fruit marmalades available at £1.50 per 1lb jar. These can be collected from 7 Old Mill Lane, or they can be delivered (ring 237310). Jane would like you to keep any empty jam jars with lids for future use. We thank Jane and all who bought some jars last year, raising £792. This wonderful sum was split equally between The Leprosy Mission and WfM.

**Meal Train:** We would love to support those welcoming new babies into their family or recovering from illness by providing meals and other support where we can. If you would be interested in supporting families in this way, please get in touch with.

**Congratulations** to Alison and Chris MacLeod and big sister Aoife on the safe arrival of **Jude Christopher**, born on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February. A wonderful gift from God.

The next **Guys Group** is online on Zoom on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March (10 am & 7 pm).

**Book of the month – *Pray Big*, by Alistair Begg.** A book to help us pray like an apostle, shaped by Paul's prayers in Ephesians 1 & 3. If you would like a copy popped through your letterbox, then get in touch with Carrie. The price is £5, payable whenever convenient.

The **Record** magazine for February is available free online ([https://issuu.com/freenorthchurch/docs/the\\_record-february-21-web](https://issuu.com/freenorthchurch/docs/the_record-february-21-web)). Advise Martin at the Church Office to set up a new subscription for a paper copy.

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)).

**Support the Free North:** To donate or contribute to the Livestream Project visit our website (PayPal logo) or via our treasurer, Mrs Barbara Macphail, 31 Towerhill Avenue, IV2 5FX. (01463 794622, [treasurer@freenorthchurch.org](mailto:treasurer@freenorthchurch.org)).