



The Free North Church Inverness

a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland

A GUIDE TO SUNDAY WORSHIP

11 am – Sunday 21st March 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 07 583 498 782.

We hope to resume in-person morning and evening worship from Sunday 28th March. Please see details below. Online services are streamed on our YouTube channel at 11 am and 6 pm each Sunday. Subscribe to the channel at: www.youtube.com/c/FreeNorthChurchInverness.

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 117)

Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples.

For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

PSALM 27:4-6 (Sing Psalms)

One thing I'll plead before the LORD,
and this I'll seek always:
That I may come within God's house
and dwell there all my days—

That on the beauty of the LORD
I constantly may gaze,
And in his house may seek to know
direction in his ways.

For in his dwelling he will keep
me safe in troubled days;
Within his tent he'll shelter me,
and on a rock me raise.

My head will then be lifted high
above my enemies;
And in his tent I'll sacrifice
with shouts of joy and praise.

*Sing Psalms version © Free Church of Scotland, 2003. Tune Argyle (CM). Recorded at Glasgow RP Church, 2012.
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PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

This week Free Church congregations are praying for sister churches and their pastors in **Edinburgh Cornerstone** (Rev Neil MacMillan) and the vacant charge of **Back**, in the Isle of Lewis (cared for by Rev Ewen Matheson). Next weekend we will pray for our sister churches in Lennoxton and Fort William.

UPDATE ON CHURCH REOPENING

A year ago the UK went into a national lockdown due to the Covid-19 public health emergency. Schools, churches, and many businesses were closed or forced to find new ways to operate. While much of life has been disrupted, we thank God that worship and pastoral care has continued. We are delighted to reopen our church building for in-person worship **on Sunday mornings and evenings from next Sunday 28th March**, when **Sunday School** will also resume. Carefully note our planned arrangements, as we are limited to a maximum attendance of 50. **Parents** are asked to take Sunday School Children directly to the separate **CYC building** at 12 Bank Street by 10:50 am, collecting them from the CYC after the service. A mobile contact number will be required. A creche will be available in the church foyer. Families with children are welcome

to attend every Sunday morning. **All other adults are invited to attend in-person morning worship every second Sunday**, following an alphabetical split based on our surnames. On Sunday 28th those with **Surnames A – MacK** are invited to attend at 11 am. On Easter Sunday morning, 4th April, we invite those with **Surnames McL-Z**. Please try to be in your seat by 10:50 am. If more than 50 people wish to attend any latecomers will be directed to watch the service via a relay to the CYC building. There will also be an **evening service** in the Free North at 6 pm each Sunday. **Our Sunday evening service is open to all who wish to attend every week**, but we are limited to 50 persons. Try to be seated by 5:50 pm. We will take steps so two services may be held safely on the same day in the church building. The Church will also be open at **11 am on Good Friday**, 2nd April, for a service of readings and meditations around the cross. The Good Friday service is open to anyone who wishes to attend (up to 50 persons). Please continue to use a face-covering unless exempt and observe social distancing. We hope there will be a growing number wishing to attend our services and so we may need to gradually adjust arrangements as we go forward. **Midweek services** will remain online only during April. We plan to hold **Communion** services on Sunday mornings, 25th April and 2nd May.

TALK TO CHILDREN

BOOK OF THE MONTH

This month we have one book for you to read, and one to give away. *'Intentional'* by Paul Williams tackles some of our fear when it comes to evangelism by showing us how to take people to Jesus. *'Easter: The Greatest News'* is a brilliant book to give to friends/family/neighbours this Easter to tell them of that wonderful news of Jesus. You can get two books for just £3. If you would like copies, then please get in touch with Carrie on 07 583 498 782 or email carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org.

HYMN: I STAND AMAZED

I stand amazed in the presence
of Jesus the Nazarene
and wonder how He could love me,
a sinner, condemned, unclean!

*How marvellous! How wonderful!
And my song shall ever be:
How marvellous! How wonderful
is my Saviour's love to me!*

For me it was in the garden
He prayed – 'Not My will, but Thine'.
He had no tears for His own griefs,
but sweat drops of blood for mine.

In pity angels beheld Him,
and came from the world of light

to comfort Him in the sorrows
He bore for my soul that night.

He took my sins and my sorrows,
He made them His very own,
He bore the burden to Calvary,
and suffered and died alone.

When with the ransomed in glory
His face I at last shall see,
'twill be my joy through the ages
to sing of His love for me.

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Recorded in 2019 at the Evangelical Movement of Wales
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BIBLE READING: MATTHEW 20:17-28

¹⁷ Now Jesus was going up to Jerusalem. On the way, he took the Twelve aside and said to them, ¹⁸ "We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death ¹⁹ and will hand him over

to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!" ²⁰ Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favour of him. ²¹ "What is it you want?" he asked. She said, "Grant that one of these two

sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom.”²² “You don’t know what you are asking,” Jesus said to them. “Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?” “We can,” they answered.²³ Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father.”²⁴ When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers.

²⁵ Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them.²⁶ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

SERMON: MATTHEW 20 – ON THE JERUSALEM ROAD

On three occasions Jesus told his disciples he was travelling one last time on the Jerusalem Road, to face rejection, violence and a shameful death on a cross. But by his death for others, Jesus would bring life and immortality to all his people. Although the disciples joined Jesus on the Jerusalem Road, they did not seem to understand the destination. They struggled to accept a road that led directly to the cross. This Easter we must journey along that same way, to be humbled, and to deepen our love for the Saviour. **1) HOW NOT TO GET CLOSE TO KING.** Mrs Zebedee approached Jesus with a request. She hoped to get a place of special importance and influence for her two sons, James and John. But their ideas of greatness were about to be challenged by the cross. Are we willing to get close to a crucified King? **2). HOW TO BE TRULY GREAT IN GOD’S KINGDOM.** Jesus has a very different idea about greatness. He describes his “cup” of suffering and humiliation. More than that, the Road to Jerusalem is a call to us to be willing to take a sip of the cup of suffering for ourselves. WE can have fellowship with Jesus by accepting the ‘shame’ of every real disciple. In God’s kingdom, the great ones serve! This Easter, we return humbly and thankfully to the cross. May God’s Holy Spirit teach us to be disciples of our loving Master. For us, greatness means learning to go down low.

HYMN: SEE HIM IN JERUSALEM

See Him in Jerusalem,
Walking where the crowds are.
Once these streets had sung to Him,
Now they cry for murder.
Such a frail and lonely Man,
Holding up the heavy cross.
See Him walking in Jerusalem,
On the road to save us.

See Him there upon the hill,
Hear the scorn and laughter.
Silent as a lamb He waits,
Praying to the Father.
See the King who made the sun,
And the moon and shining stars,
Let the soldiers hold and nail Him down,
So that He could save them.

See Him there upon the cross,
Now no longer breathing;

Dust that formed the watching crowds,
Takes the blood of Jesus.
Feel the earth is shaking now,
See the veil is split in two,
And He stood before the wrath of God,
Shielding sinners with His blood.

See the empty tomb today,
Death could not contain Him.
Once the Servant of the world,
Now in vict’ry reigning.
Lift your voices to the One,
Who is seated on the throne.
See Him in the New Jerusalem,
Praise the One who saved us,
Praise the One who saved us!

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BENEDICTION

After morning service on YouTube why not log onto Zoom for a 15-minute informal “**coffee and chat**”.

SUNDAY AT SIX – on our YOUTUBE CHANNEL at 6 PM tonight.
Followed by a Fellowship on Zoom

DIARY, NEWS & PRAYER

Services today at 11 am & 6 pm – followed by a 15-minute “coffee-time” catch up at around 12 noon. We begin a new Easter teaching series – **ON THE ROAD WITH JESUS. Today – ON THE JERUSALEM ROAD.** Over the coming Sundays and Good Friday we will travel with Jesus on “*The Hosanna Road*”; “*The Calvary Road*”; and “*The Resurrection Road*”. There is an evening fellowship on Zoom tonight focussed on “**Pray Big**” by Alistair Begg. See the note above on plans to resume 11 am and 6 pm in-person worship from next Sunday.

Thanks from Alastair Morrison, Highfield Avenue: Alastair wishes to express sincere thanks to all who sent sympathy cards following the recent passing of his mother. The kind words have been a great source of comfort. Alasdair is also grateful for the prayers offered in recent days.

Monday 22nd - Guys Groups meet at 10 am and 7 pm. Please read ‘*The Plan*’, Part 2, pages 141-148 in *The Way Forward* by Joe Barnard. The group takes a break over Easter, resuming on Monday 19th April.

Wednesday 24th– Wednesday Church Night – join in using the usual Zoom log-on at 7.30 pm.

Thursday 25th - The Women’s Bible Study is at 10.30 am and 7.45 pm, when we’ll be studying 1 Peter 3:1-12. All are welcome to join us for the last study of the term. Dates for next term will be available soon. Get in touch with Carrie for the zoom details: carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org or 07583 498782.

Wonder Walks: Families can download activity guides with Easter Bible readings and ideas for family walks (<https://scottish.bible/wonderwalks/>). Send any pictures to Angus (angusmacrae1967@gmail.com).

For Prayer: Give thanks that we can soon resume meeting in-person. Pray for blessing on all who participate in our services. Give thanks for our children and youth and the recently completed Youth Alpha. Iain MacLeod has been recently diagnosed with cancer. He and Jane would value a place in your prayers. Remember Julie Ferguson, being cared for at the Highland Hospice, and her husband Roddy. Elise Murray has been in hospital for some time and is not well enough to manage on her own at home.

Praying for 20 Schemes: This is the list of church planting pastors and their locations to guide your prayers. Tommy Millar—*Maryhill, Glasgow*; Pete Stewart & Pete Bell—*Barlanark, Glasgow*; Andrew Mathieson—*Lochee, Dundee*; Andy Robertson—*Charleston, Dundee*; Chris Davidson—*Merkinch, Inverness*; Derek Laidlaw—*Gorgie, Edinburgh*; Gerald White—*Bingham, Edinburgh*; Andy Prime & Tim Rawlinson—*Gracemount, Edinburgh*; Mez McConnell, Andy Constable, & Jason Nelson—*Niddrie, Edinburgh*.

AGM & Free North Accounts: Our AGM is online on Zoom at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 7th April. Those who receive this Service Guide by email will find attached a simplified copy of the FN Accounts for 2020. This financial report will be presented to the congregation at the AGM. We would be delighted if you are able to join us at this online meeting. A full set of accounts is available if anyone would like a copy. Please email our treasurer, Mrs Barbara Macphail: treasurer@freenorthchurch.org. To donate to the work of the congregation or to contribute to the recently completed Livestream Video Project visit our website (PayPal logo) or contact the treasurer.