



The Free North Church Inverness

a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland

A GUIDE TO SUNDAY WORSHIP

11 am – Palm Sunday 28th March 2021

Sunday services today at 11 am & at 6 pm are **both** online & in-person, 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.

It is a joy to welcome you back to in-person worship at the Free North. Please see details below. Online services are also streamed live 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 Zechariah 9:9, Luke 1:32-33)

Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation,
gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.

The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,
and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; his kingdom will never end. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SONG (COME, CHILDREN, JOIN TO SING) & LORD'S PRAYER

Come, Children, join to sing
Alleluia! Amen!

Loud praise to Christ our King;
Alleluia! Amen!

Let all, with heart and voice
Before His throne rejoice;
Praise is His gracious choice
Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high
Alleluia! Amen!

Let praises fill the sky;
Alleluia! Amen!

He is our Guide and Friend;
To us He'll condescend;

His love shall never end
Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again
Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain;
Alleluia! Amen!

On heaven's blissful shore
His goodness we'll adore
Singing forevermore
"Alleluia! Amen!"

*Words Christian H Bateman (1843), adapted by Colin Buchanan. Recorded by Colin Buchanan, Wanaarag Road Music, 2003 for the album 'God of Wonders'.
CCL License 616262. CCL Streaming 324811.*

FREE EASTER RESOURCE – EASTER IN THREE WORDS

Copies of a free Easter booklet by William Taylor are available to help share the gospel with your friends.

EXPLORE daily Bible reading notes (for April to June) are also available. Suggested donation £3.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

A book for you to read, and a book to give away. *'Intentional'* by Paul Williams shows 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. Ask Carrie for copies - 07 583 498 782 or email carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org.

PRAYER

This week Free Church congregations are praying for our sister churches in **Lennoxtown** (Rev Alick Stewart) and **Fort William** (vacant, cared for by Rev Gordon Martin).

PSALM 98:1-2,4-9 (SING PSALMS)

O sing a new song to the LORD,
for wonders he has done;
His right hand and his holy arm
the victory have won.

The LORD declared his saving work
and made it to be known;
To all the nations of the world
his righteousness is shown.

Acclaim the LORD, O all the earth;
shout loudly and rejoice.
Make music and be jubilant;
to him lift up your voice.

With harp make music to the LORD;
with harp his praises sing.
With trumpet and with horn rejoice
before the LORD, the King.

Let earth, the sea and all in them
rejoice triumphantly.
Let streams clap hands and mountains sing
together joyfully.

Now let them sing before the LORD,
who comes to judge the earth;
He'll judge the world in righteousness,
the peoples in his truth.

*Tune Southwark - Sung by John MacAulay & Chris MacLeod.
Words Sing Psalms, Free Church of Scotland, 2003.*

BIBLE READING: MATTHEW 21:1-17

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away." ⁴ This took place to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet:

⁵ "Say to Daughter Zion,
'See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"
"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹⁰ When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" ¹¹ The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

¹² Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. ¹³ "It is written," he said to them, "'My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it 'a den of robbers.'"

¹⁴ The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. ¹⁵ But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they were indignant. ¹⁶ "Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him. "Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read, "'From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise?'" ¹⁷ And he left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where he spent the night

SERMON: MATTHEW 21 – ON THE HOSANNA ROAD

1) KING IN CONTROL. This is the only place in the gospels where we read Jesus rode and did not walk. King Jesus arrived in Jerusalem on a Colt to fulfil prophecy and to show that he was in complete control of events. His destiny was in his own hands. He was determined to fulfill God's eternal plan of salvation. If Jesus had wanted to avoid his death at this Passover, he could have. But he was in control and chose to do God's will. His control really matters when our lives seem to spin out of control. **2). KING ON THE ROAD OF PEACE.** Zechariah 9 has a lot to say about the Messiah who will bring shouts of rejoicing to his people. When he comes it is not on a war-horse but a humble colt. This ruler comes in peace and with great humility. Power does not go to the head of this King. **3). KING COME TO SAVE AND JUDGE HIS CITY.** On Palm Sunday the excited crowds sang from Psalm 118, "HOSANNA. LORD, SAVE!" Few in the crowd realised their chants would change, by the Friday, to "CRUCIFY HIM"! But it was through the cross that he would save his people, and judge those remaining in stubborn unbelief. The Hallelujah road would lead to the darkness of Calvary. For this King, the cross must come before he wears his everlasting crown.

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!

*Words by Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson, Tiarne Kleyn. ©
CityAlight 2014. CCL License No. 616262. CCL Streaming
License No. 324811.*

BENEDICTION

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

**SUNDAY AT SIX – in-person and on our YOUTUBE CHANNEL at 6 PM tonight.
More from Matthew's Gospel on the Road to the Cross**

DIARY, NEWS & PRAYER

Services today at 11 am & 6 pm both in-person and online on YouTube. For the time being we will stop the Zoom "coffee-time" catch up after services. We have an Easter teaching series **ON THE ROAD WITH JESUS.** **Today** we travel with Jesus on "**THE HOSANNA ROAD**". On Good Friday we take "*The Calvary Road.*" Then next weekend, on Easter Sunday, we walk along "*The Resurrection Road*".

Sympathy: we extend our sympathy to Roddy and all the friends and family of Julie Ferguson, who died at the Highland Hospice last Tuesday. Roddy sends his thanks to all who have prayed and been in touch during Julie's long illness. A funeral will take place from Kilmallie Free Church at 11 am on Tuesday 30th March (streamed live online on the Kilmallie Free Church YouTube channel).

Copies of our latest **Congregational Newsletter** are available today.

Monday: The Inverness, Lochaber and Ross **Presbytery** meets at 7 pm on Zoom, a network of over 20 local churches in our region. Meetings are open to the public. Request Zoom details from the minister or any member of Presbytery.

Tuesday: Our elders meet for fellowship at 7.30 pm to discuss "*Church Elders*" by Jermie Rinne (p. 13-30).

Wednesday 31st– Church Night on Zoom and YouTube – connect using the usual log-on at 7.30 pm.

Friday 2nd April: Good Friday Readings and Meditations around the Cross. 11 am in-person and on YouTube.

Wednesday 7th April – AGM & Free North Accounts: Our AGM is online on Zoom at 7.30 pm on 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.

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).

Guys Groups are taking a break over April and will resume on Tuesday 4th May. By then it should be possible for the evening group to meet in-person.

CHURCH REOPENING

From today we are delighted to reopen our church building for in-person worship **on Sunday mornings and evenings. Sunday School** also resumes today. We are limited to a maximum of 50 so please note the arrangements for safe attendance. **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 is 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 week**, following an alphabetical split based on surnames. On 28th March those with **Surnames A – MacK** are invited to attend at 11 am. On Easter Sunday at 11 am, 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 latecomers will be directed to watch the service via a relay to the CYC building. There will be an **evening service** in the Free North at 6 pm each Sunday. **Our Sunday evening service is open to all every week**, but we are limited to 50 persons. Try to be seated by 5:50 pm. 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.

Communion: We next plan to hold Communion services on Sunday mornings, 25th April and 2nd May.