



# The Free North Church Inverness

a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland

## A GUIDE TO SUNDAY WORSHIP

11 am – Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April 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](mailto:angusmacrae1967@gmail.com)).

Carrie Marlow - Women's Pastoral Worker contacts:

[carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org](mailto: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](http://www.youtube.com/c/FreeNorthChurchInverness).

### WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP (from Revelation 1:4-5,17)

Minister: Grace and peace to you from Him who is, and who was, and who is to come,  
from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness,  
the firstborn from the dead and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

ALL: He is the First and the Last. He is the Living One.

He was dead, but behold, He is alive forever and ever! Amen.

### TURN YOUR EYES UPON JESUS

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
Look full in His wonderful face,  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,  
In the light of His glory and grace.

Turn your eyes to the hillside,  
Where justice and mercy embraced.  
There the Son of God gave His life for us,  
And our measureless debt was erased.

*Jesus, to You we lift our eyes,  
Jesus, our glory and our prize.*

*We adore You, behold You, our Saviour ever true,  
Oh Jesus, we turn our eyes to You.*

Turn your eyes to the morning  
And see Christ the Lion awake.  
What a glorious dawn, fear of death is gone,  
For we carry His life in our veins.

Turn your eyes to the heavens,  
Our King will return for His own.  
Every knee will bow, every tongue will shout,  
'All glory to Jesus alone!'

*Words & Melody: V. 1 Helen H. Lemmel. Additional words and chorus by George Romanacce, Kevin Winebarger, Nathan Stiff, Nic Trout. © 2019 Sovereign Grace Worship / Integrity Music. Song # 7120053.  
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### PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

This week Free Church congregations are praying for our sister churches in **Elgin & Forres** (minister Rev Colin Morison) and **Cross** (in Ness, Isle of Lewis, minister Rev Ewen Matheson). Later this month we will pray for Durinish in Skye and Christ Church, Edinburgh (18<sup>th</sup>); and Shawbost, Brora, and Oban (25<sup>th</sup>).

### TALK TO CHILDREN

From this Tuesday the 1.8 billion Muslims in the world start their annual 30-days of fasting from each dawn to sunset. This is also a good time for Christians to pray for our Muslim friends in our schools and community and for all the people in our city who do not yet know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

## APRIL BOOK OF THE MONTH & ONE-TO-ONE RESOURCES TO HELP SHARE YOUR FAITH

Our 'Book of the Month' is *The Discipline of Grace* by Jerry Bridges. It is through the good news of God's grace that we come to Christ. As Christians we are called to grow more like Christ by pursuing holiness. Yet often we focus on discipline rather than on the gospel of grace. *The Discipline of Grace* is a reminder that it is "the gospel by which we were saved, and it is the gospel by which we must live every day of our Christian lives... If you are not firmly rooted in the gospel and have not learned to preach it to yourself every day, you will soon become discouraged and will slack off in your pursuit of holiness." The grace of God and personal discipline must go hand-in-hand. *The Discipline of Grace* helps to teach us what it looks like to depend on Christ as we pursue holiness. Contact Carrie if you would like a copy (£10). Carrie can also supply one-to-one *Uncover* booklets to read through a gospel with a friend. (carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org or 07 583 498 782). We still have some copies of a free booklet, *Easter in Three Words*, to help share the gospel with your friends. **EXPLORE** daily Bible reading notes (for April to June) are also available (£3).

### BIBLE READINGS: PSALM 16 & ACTS 2:22-33

#### PSALM 16 - *A miktam of David.*

<sup>1</sup> Keep me safe, my God, for in you I take refuge. <sup>2</sup> I say to the Lord, 'You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing.' <sup>3</sup> I say of the holy people who are in the land, 'They are the noble ones in whom is all my delight.' <sup>4</sup> Those who run after other gods will suffer more and more. I will not pour out libations of blood to such gods or take up their names on my lips. <sup>5</sup> Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure. <sup>6</sup> The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance. <sup>7</sup> I will praise the Lord, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me. <sup>8</sup> I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. <sup>9</sup> Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, <sup>10</sup> because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay. <sup>11</sup> You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

#### ACTS 2

<sup>22</sup> 'Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. <sup>23</sup> This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. <sup>24</sup> But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. <sup>25</sup> David said about him: "'I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. <sup>26</sup> Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest in hope, <sup>27</sup> because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, you will not let your holy one see decay. <sup>28</sup> You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.'" <sup>29</sup> 'Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. <sup>30</sup> But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup> Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. <sup>32</sup> God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it. <sup>33</sup> Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.

#### HYMN: THERE IS A REDEEMER

There is a Redeemer,  
Jesus, God's own Son,  
precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
Holy One.

*Thank You, O my Father,  
for giving us Your Son,  
till the work on earth is done.*

Jesus, my Redeemer,  
name above all names,  
precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
O for sinners slain:

When I stand in glory  
I will see His face,

and there I'll serve my King for ever  
in that holy place.

*Words Melody Green*

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### SERMON: PSALM 16 – A PSALM OF EASTER JOY

The first Christians read Psalm 16 as an Easter Psalm predicting the resurrection of Jesus. He is risen, and death is defeated. The Psalm's core is an unshakeable assurance of faith – *'I shall not be shaken'* (v. 8). **1) GOD IS OUR UNSHAKEABLE REFUGE (1-6)**. David calls on the Lord to keep him safe from enemies and from death. The LORD was his supreme treasure. Sin and idolatry held no appeal for David as he kept his eyes fixed on God as his beautiful inheritance. The New Testament church has a similar unshakeable faith in God. See Hebrews 12:28-29. **2) GOD IS (& WILL ALWAYS BE) OUR UNSHAKEABLE JOY (7-11)**. The word 'therefore' (v. 9) introduces the joyful and certain conclusion of the Psalm. David was glad in God, and you may be glad if God is your chief source of joy. The Christian life has a mix of joy and sorrow on a path towards eternal joys. David clearly knew he would face death, but his covenant union with God would be unbroken by death. Ultimately the Messiah's victory over death ensures eternal joy and eternal life for every believer.

### PSALM 16:8-11-10 (SING PSALMS)

Before me constantly  
I set the LORD alone.  
Because he is at my right hand  
I'll not be overthrown.

Therefore my heart is glad;  
my tongue with joy will sing.  
My body too will rest secure  
in hope unwavering.

For you will not allow  
my soul in death to stay,  
Nor will you leave your Holy One  
to see the tomb's decay.

You have made known to me  
the path of life divine.  
Bliss shall I know at your right hand;  
joy from your face will shine.

*Golden Hill (SM) - sung by Rev Innes MacSween at the Free North. Words: Sing Psalms © Free Church of Scotland, 2003.*

### BENEDICTION

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**SUNDAY AT SIX – in-person and on our YOUTUBE CHANNEL at 6 PM tonight.**  
**EASTER PSALMS – PSALM 110 – WHERE IS OUR MESSIAH NOW?**  
**Followed by a Fellowship Time on Zoom starting at 7.30 pm.**

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### DIARY, NEWS & PRAYER

Many are praying for God's Holy Spirit to comfort Her Majesty the Queen and the Royal Family, following the sad death of the Duke of Edinburgh last Friday. Whoever we are and however long we may live, we must prepare for eternity. Hebrews 9:27-28 is very helpful. *"Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him."*

**Services today at 11 am & 6 pm** both in-person and online on YouTube. Our Bible teaching today presents hope and eternal life through Jesus the Messiah using two great **"Easter Psalms"** – Psalms 16 and 110.

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>– Church Night:** Join us on Zoom and YouTube at 7.30 pm for Bible study and prayer.

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup>** - We meet online on Zoom on Friday at 11 am for 30 minutes of prayer and Bible reading. Use the usual log on details.

**Regular Giving & Offering Envelopes:** Weekly Envelopes are available for all those who would find them helpful. Speak to an office bearer if you would like a set or contact Barbara our treasurer to set up direct giving from your bank account. To donate to the work of the congregation visit our website (PayPal logo) or contact Mrs Barbara Macphail: treasurer@freenorthchurch.org.

**WOMEN FOR MISSION:** The national WfM committee has asked us to remind you of their four very worthy fundraising projects for 2020-2021: SU Scotland, the Moldova Support Group, The Leprosy Mission and our own Free Church disaster relief fund. Donations may be made via our treasurer, a marked offering in the offering plate or sent directly via [womenformission.org/](http://womenformission.org/)

**Kiltwalk:** Effie and Sandy Finlay are both doing the Kiltwalk to support Inverness YMCA (CYC). Donations can be made either via their Facebook pages or directly to Effie or Sandy. There is no sibling rivalry!

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

**Ladies' Bible** study dates for next term are 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> May, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> June. We'll continue to look at 1 Peter through the term. You don't need to have been at previous studies to join us. These will continue on Zoom for the time being, but we look forward to when we can meet in person. For more details contact Carrie: [carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org](mailto:carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org) or 07583 498782.

### CHURCH REOPENING

We are delighted to reopen our church building for in-person worship **on Sunday mornings and evenings**. As we are limited to a maximum of 50 in the building the welcome team will direct latecomers to an overflow service in the CYC or the Church Street Hall, if available. Occasionally it may be necessary to send latecomers home. We ask for your patience, understanding and compliance with the instructions of the welcome team. **Parents** are asked to take **Sunday School** children directly to the **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 11<sup>th</sup> April those with **Surnames A – Mack** are invited to attend at 11 am. On 18<sup>th</sup> April we invite those with **Surnames McL-Z** to attend at 11 am. Please try to be in your seat by 10:50 am. The CYC overflow is only available on Sunday mornings. There will be an **evening service** in the Free North at 6 pm each Sunday. **Our Sunday evening service is open to all each Sunday**, but limited to 50 persons. Try to be seated by 5:50 pm. 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 & Membership:** We plan to hold Communion services on Sunday mornings, 25<sup>th</sup> April and 2<sup>nd</sup> May. It will also be good to welcome any new members into the church family at these times. If you are a new Christian, or have moved from another church or area please discuss church membership with Angus or any of the pastoral care team.

**Scottish Elections:** You may find it helpful to visit the *Care* and *Christian Institute* websites before the election in May. See: [elections2021.care.org.uk/](http://elections2021.care.org.uk/) and [christian.org.uk/scottish-election-briefing-2021/](http://christian.org.uk/scottish-election-briefing-2021/).