



# The Free North Church Inverness

a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland

## A GUIDE TO SUNDAY WORSHIP

11 am – Sunday 18<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. 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 Isaiah 55:6; 58:9)

Seek the LORD while he may be found; Call upon him while he is near.

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;

You shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am.' Amen.

### PRAISE: PSALMS 100(1):1-5

All people that on earth do dwell,  
Sing to the LORD with cheerful voice.  
Him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell,  
Come ye before him and rejoice.

Know that the LORD is God indeed;  
Without our aid he did us make:  
We are his flock, he doth us feed,  
And for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise,  
Approach with joy his courts unto:  
Praise, laud, and bless his name always,  
For it is seemly so to do.

For why? the LORD our God is good,  
His mercy is for ever sure;  
His truth at all times firmly stood,  
And shall from age to age endure.

*The Scottish Psalter of 1650. Tune: Old 100th. Recorded at the Free North Church, at the wedding of Alison & Chris MacLeod. CCL License No. 616262. CCL Streaming License No. 324811.*

### PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

This week Free Church congregations are praying for our sister churches in **Duirinish** in Skye (minister David Miller, who is unwell, interim-moderator Donnie G MacDonald) and **Christ Church** in Craigentenny, Edinburgh (minister David Court). Next Sunday we will pray for Shawbost, Brora, and Oban congregations.

### TALK TO CHILDREN – SANDY FINLAY

Over 2,000 years ago Jesus lived in our world in the country sometimes known as Palestine. He lived there for 33 years. For the last 3 years of his life he went about doing good, before he died and rose again. So, where is Jesus now?

### 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. This book reminds us to live by that same gospel. The grace of God and personal discipline must go hand-in-hand. Contact Carrie if you would like a copy (£10). Carrie can also supply

one-to-one *Uncover* booklets to read a gospel with a friend. (carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org or 07 583 498 782). **EXPLORE** daily Bible reading notes (for April to June) are also still available (£3).

### BIBLE READINGS: JOHN 7:1-24

<sup>1</sup> After this, Jesus went around in Galilee. He did not want to go about in Judea because the Jewish leaders there were looking for a way to kill him. <sup>2</sup> But when the Jewish Festival of Tabernacles was near, <sup>3</sup> Jesus' brothers said to him, 'Leave Galilee and go to Judea, so that your disciples there may see the works you do.' <sup>4</sup> No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world.' <sup>5</sup> For even his own brothers did not believe in him. <sup>6</sup> Therefore Jesus told them, 'My time is not yet here; for you any time will do.' <sup>7</sup> The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that its works are evil. <sup>8</sup> You go to the festival. I am not going up to this festival, because my time has not yet fully come.' <sup>9</sup> After he had said this, he stayed in Galilee. <sup>10</sup> However, after his brothers had left for the festival, he went also, not publicly, but in secret. <sup>11</sup> Now at the festival the Jewish leaders were watching for Jesus and asking, 'Where is he?' <sup>12</sup> Among the crowds there was widespread whispering about him. Some said, 'He is a good man.' Others replied, 'No, he deceives the people.' <sup>13</sup> But no one would say anything publicly about him for fear of the leaders. <sup>14</sup> Not until halfway through the festival did Jesus go up to the temple courts and begin to teach. <sup>15</sup> The Jews there were amazed and asked, 'How did this man get such learning without having been taught?' <sup>16</sup> Jesus answered, 'My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me.' <sup>17</sup> Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. <sup>18</sup> Whoever speaks on their own does so to gain personal glory, but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him. <sup>19</sup> Has not Moses given you the law? Yet not one of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill me?' <sup>20</sup> 'You are demon-possessed,' the crowd answered. 'Who is trying to kill you?' <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them, 'I did one miracle, and you are all amazed. <sup>22</sup> Yet, because Moses gave you circumcision (though actually it did not come from Moses, but from the patriarchs), you circumcise a boy on the Sabbath. <sup>23</sup> Now if a boy can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses may not be broken, why are you angry with me for healing a man's whole body on the Sabbath?' <sup>24</sup> Stop judging by mere appearances, but instead judge correctly.'

### HYMN: LORD, FOR THE YEARS

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,  
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,  
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided,  
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for our land in this our generation,  
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care;  
for young and old, for this and every nation,  
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires  
us,  
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,  
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us;  
Lord of the word, receive your people's praise.

Lord, for ourselves, in living power remake us-  
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,  
past put behind us, for the future take us,  
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

*Words © Timothy Dudley-Smith / Jubilate Music. Melody by Michael Baughen. Recorded by Shenandoah Christian Music Camp, Harrisonburg, Virginia. CCL License 616262. CCL Streaming 324811.*

### SERMON: JOHN 7:1-24 – HATRED IN JERUSALEM

John 7 brings us to around October, some 6 months before the events of the Cross. Having avoided the city of Jerusalem and the Temple authorities for many months Jesus now chose to appear unexpectedly in the temple about half-way through the Feast of Tabernacles. From this point onwards there is a growing hatred against Jesus. People are being forced to make up their minds either for or against Jesus as the Messiah. **1) JESUS CONFRONTS OUR HATRED WITH GOD'S WORD.** Any time would do for Jesus' half-siblings, who urged him to attend the Feast to gain popularity. But Jesus wanted to teach and fulfil God's word perfectly. His mission was shaped around the word. **2). FOR ONLY THE WORD REMOVES OUR BIAS AGAINST GOD.** Then

and now, we are prejudiced against God's truth. Jesus offers us five tests. The Origin Test (his word is from above); The Will Test (real converts to Christ want to please God and to do his will); The Honour Test (Jesus wanted glory for God, not for himself); The Obedience Test; and the Mercy Test (from 5:16 many unbelievers said no to God's mercy on display through Jesus' words and actions). If we are to believe in Jesus, God's word must reach us to change our hearts.

### 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.*

### BENEDICTION

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**SUNDAY AT SIX – in-person and on our YOUTUBE CHANNEL at 6 PM tonight.  
EASTER PSALMS – PSALM 2 – REBELLION ON EARTH, EASTER JOY IN HEAVEN**

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### UPDATE ON CHURCH REOPENING PROCESS

We are thrilled to welcome you back to in-person as well as online worship. We expect next Sunday (25<sup>th</sup>) will be the **last time** we are limited to a maximum of 50 persons in our church building. From Monday 26<sup>th</sup> the cap limiting attendance will be changed from 50 to reflect the real capacity of each church building. In the Free North we have enough space for all our congregation to attend safely, while still maintaining 2-meter social distancing. **Accordingly, everyone is welcome to attend all our Sunday Services in-person from Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May.** This weekend and next weekend we continue to follow an alphabetical split of the congregation, based on our surnames. Today (18<sup>th</sup>) we invite those with **Surnames McL-Z** to attend at 11 am. **Next Sunday** (25<sup>th</sup>) those with **Surnames A – MacK** are invited at 11 am. An overflow Service is available on Sunday mornings in the CYC building, where the Sunday School is meeting at 11 am. Our **Sunday evening** services are open to all each Sunday. **Midweek services** will remain online only during April.

### DIARY, NEWS & PRAYER

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>** - The Deacons' Court will meet (online on Zoom) at 7.30 pm.

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> - Small Group Bible Studies:** Various small groups meet on Zoom at 7.30 pm for Bible study and prayer. Use the usual Zoom to join the central group. For information on joining a small group ask Angus our minister or any of the elders. This week we will study the second half of Psalm 23. See questions 8-12, pages 26-28, in *Soul Songs* by Tim Chester.

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup>** - The **Ladies' Bible Study** is at 10.30 am and 7.45 pm on Zoom, studying 1 Peter 3:8-22. All are welcome. You don't need to have been to previous studies to join in. For those who like to do a bit of preparation there are general questions attached to the weekly email that will help you engage with the

epistles. Don't feel you need to prepare these before the study. Remaining dates for this term are 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> May, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> June. For more details contact Carrie: [carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org](mailto:carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org) or 07583 498782.

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>** - We meet online on Zoom at 11 am for 30 minutes of prayer and Bible reading. Usual log on.

**Guys Groups** will resume on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May. 10 am online on Zoom and 7 pm in-person in the new manse garden, 19 Mingary Crescent, Ness Castle. Notes for the final session and ideas to follow up over the coming year are available by email with this Service Guide.

**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!

**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/](https://elections2021.care.org.uk/) and [christian.org.uk/scottish-election-briefing-2021/](https://christian.org.uk/scottish-election-briefing-2021/).

Visit [https://issuu.com/freechurch/docs/the\\_record-april-21-web](https://issuu.com/freechurch/docs/the_record-april-21-web) for the **April** edition of the **Record** magazine.

**Accommodation or Storage – Please can you help?** Graham and Tineke Wintour are moving from Aberdeen to join the Merkinch church plant. They are looking to buy a property here but need somewhere to rent (or store things) short-term. They and their 4 children need to move by 7<sup>th</sup> May. Another child is due in June! If you can help Graham's details are: 07 800 900 438; [graham.wintour@gmail.com](mailto:graham.wintour@gmail.com). Thank you!

**Meal Train** - We're looking forward to welcoming the newest member of the Gillespie family later this week. Please do be praying for Alistair, Kirsteen and Angus as they welcome a new baby into the family. We have a Meal Train set up from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April to support them practically during these first few weeks. If you would like to be involved in preparing a meal please get in touch with Carrie for the details: [carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org](mailto:carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org) or 07 583 498 782.

**FOR PRAYER:** **Annette MacLean** has a recurrence of cancer and is in considerable pain. **Tina Fraser** will have an operation on 27<sup>th</sup> April. **Elise Murray** has been in hospital for the past two months. **Brenda Davidson** is recovering at home after falling and breaking her pelvis. Remember two of our elders, **Willie Murray** and **Iain MacLeod**, who are unwell.

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

**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](mailto:treasurer@freenorthchurch.org).