



# The Free North Church Inverness

a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland

## A GUIDE TO SUNDAY WORSHIP

11 am – Sunday 25<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 NUMBERS 6)

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord lift up His face upon you and give you peace. Amen.

### PSALM 67: SCOTTISH PSALTER (1650)

Lord, bless and pity us,  
shine on us with thy face:  
That th' earth thy way, and nations all  
may know thy saving grace.

Let people praise thee, Lord;  
let people all thee praise.  
O let the nations be glad,  
in songs their voices raise:

Thou 'lt justly people judge,  
on earth rule nations all.  
Let people praise thee, Lord; let them  
praise thee, both great and small.

The earth her fruit shall yield,  
our God shall blessing send.  
God shall us bless; men shall him fear  
unto earth's utmost end.

*Recorded at Lochbroom Free Church, Ullapool. 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 **Shawbost** in Lewis (minister Rev Callum Macleod); **Brora** in Sutherland (vacant but looked after by Revs Ricky MacDonald, Roddy MacRae and Andrew MacLeod); and **Oban** (the minister, Rev James Beaton retires this week after 30 years serving in Oban, when Rev Iain MacAskill in Stirling will become the interim moderator).

### 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](mailto: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 7:25-36

<sup>25</sup> At that point some of the people of Jerusalem began to ask, 'Isn't this the man they are trying to kill?' <sup>26</sup> Here he is, speaking publicly, and they are not saying a word to him. Have the authorities really concluded that he is the Messiah? <sup>27</sup> But we know where this man is from; when the Messiah comes, no one

will know where he is from.’ <sup>28</sup> Then Jesus, still teaching in the temple courts, cried out, ‘Yes, you know me, and you know where I am from. I am not here on my own authority, but he who sent me is true. You do not know him, <sup>29</sup> but I know him because I am from him and he sent me.’ <sup>30</sup> At this they tried to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come. <sup>31</sup> Still, many in the crowd believed in him. They said, ‘When the Messiah comes, will he perform more signs than this man?’ <sup>32</sup> The Pharisees heard the crowd whispering such things about him. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees sent temple guards to arrest him. <sup>33</sup> Jesus said, ‘I am with you for only a short time, and then I am going to the one who sent me. <sup>34</sup> You will look for me, but you will not find me; and where I am, you cannot come.’ <sup>35</sup> The Jews said to one another, ‘Where does this man intend to go that we cannot find him? Will he go where our people live scattered among the Greeks, and teach the Greeks?’ <sup>36</sup> What did he mean when he said, “You will look for me, but you will not find me,” and “Where I am, you cannot come”?’

### HYMN: AMAZING GRACE

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
Was blind, but now I see.

’Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come;  
’Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.

When we’ve been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise  
Than when we’d first begun.

*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound.*

*Sung by Chris Macleod. John Newton (1725-1807). CCL License No. 616262. CCL Streaming License No. 324811.*

### SERMON: JOHN 7:25-36 – WHEN THE MESSIAH COMES

Tension was growing in Jerusalem over Jesus’ identity. John 7-8 help explain why Israel crucified her Messiah.

**1) THEIR UNBELIEF WAS NOT AN ACCIDENT.** We are always responsible for our reaction to God’s word. Faith and unbelief involve a personal choice. The fact this gospel reports the rejection of Jesus by the Jerusalem Jews does not make the gospel anti-Semitic. But those who took that fateful choice are responsible for their rejection of Jesus. We too will be responsible for an unbelieving response to God’s word. The temple police provide a model of listening to Jesus, and being open to his words (verses 32,45-46) **2). THEIR UNBELIEF WAS NOT A MISUNDERSTANDING.** Sadly, the crowds just did not want Jesus. They filter-out any possibility that he is their Messiah. They (wrongly) think they know his origins, but they do not know where he came from and cannot follow him into God’s glory. Salvation involves turning towards the truth and light of God, even if God’s pure light burns us. John’s gospel offers a choice. We may believe and find life in Christ. But if we reject the Messiah, God will hold us accountable for deliberately persisting in unbelief.

### HYMN: COMMUNION HYMN

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away,  
Slain for us - - - and we remember  
The promise made that all who come in faith  
Find forgiveness at the cross.  
So we share in this bread of life,  
And we drink of His sacrifice  
As a sign of our bonds of peace  
Around the table of the King.

The body of our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
Torn for you - - - eat and remember

The wounds that heal, the death that brings us  
life  
Paid the price to make us one.  
So we share in this bread of life,  
And we drink of His sacrifice  
As a sign of our bonds of love  
Around the table of the King.

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin,  
Shed for you - - - drink and remember  
He drained death's cup that all may enter in

To receive the life of God.  
So we share in this bread of life,  
And we drink of His sacrifice  
As a sign of our bonds of grace  
Around the table of the King.

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise

© 2006 Keith & Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend, Kingsway's Thankyou Music.  
CCL License 616262. CCL Streaming 324811.

To respond, - - - and to remember  
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ  
As His body here on earth.  
As we share in His suffering  
We proclaim Christ will come again!  
And we'll join in the feast of heaven  
Around the table of the King.

### SHARING IN COMMUNION (PRAYER OF CONFESSION, FOLLOWED BY A DECLARATION OF FAITH).

*Minister: Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.*

*ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.*

*Minister: Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed for us.*

*ALL: Therefore, let us keep the feast.*

### PSALM 72:17-19 (SCOTTISH PSALTER)

His name for ever shall endure;  
last like the sun it shall:  
Men shall be blessed in him, and blessed  
all nations shall him call.

Now blessèd be the LORD our God,  
the God of Israel,  
For he alone doth wondrous works,  
in glory that excel.

And blessèd be his glorious name  
to all eternity:  
The whole earth let his glory fill.  
Amen, so let it be.

*John MacAulay & Chris MacLeod, recorded at the Free North. Words: The Scottish Psalter, 1650.*

### BENEDICTION

---

**SUNDAY AT SIX – in-person and on our YOUTUBE CHANNEL at 6 PM tonight.**  
**EASTER PSALMS – PSALM 40 – STUCK IN THE PITS, BUT STILL WAITING FOR EASTER**

---

### UPDATE ON CHURCH REOPENING PROCESS

Today is the last time we are limited to a maximum of 50 persons in our church building, as the cap on numbers is lifted from tomorrow to reflect the real capacity of each church building. In the Free North we have enough space for all our congregation to attend in safety while still maintaining 2-meter social distancing. **Accordingly, EVERYONE IS WELCOME to attend all our Sunday Services in-person from next Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Sunday School** will also be moving back into the church building from the CYC building from next weekend. The balcony will be available if required only in the mornings, and we intend using the main entrance and the side entrance. Seating downstairs is limited to 80 persons. **Midweek services** will remain online only during April. Wednesday evenings have been online only, but from May we will return to a mix of online only and blended online and in-person meetings. There will be in-person and online prayer gathering on Wednesdays 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> May. Online only on all other Wednesdays in May.

**COMMUNION & MEMBERSHIP:** We will share in communion at the 11 am services today and next Sunday. Next Sunday we also hope to welcome some new members into the church family. To discuss professing faith or becoming a member in this church by transfer from another church please speak to Angus or any of the elders. Contact Carrie if you would prefer speaking to a woman (she is on holiday for a week from

Tuesday). The bread and wine for communion is prepared in individual servings by those with a Food Handling Certificate. These individual servings will be placed at the end of each pew from the outset of the service for the convenient use of communicants. This will prevent the need to pass common plates and cups around the building. If you require gluten-free bread, we suggest you bring this with you.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Kirsteen and Alistair Gillespie and Angus on the safe arrival last Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April of Esther Mary. This child is a great blessing from God and as a church we share the joy of the Gillespie family.

### **DIARY, NEWS & PRAYER**

**Isles FM:** Our minister will conduct an afternoon broadcast service at 4 pm today on Isles FM (islesfm.com), a local radio station based in Stornoway. His colleague Rev Murdo Campbell, of Barvas Free Church, will conduct a broadcast evening service at 8 pm. The 4 pm service will also appear on our YouTube channel.

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup>** - The elders will meet for fellowship and prayer (online on Zoom) at 7.30 pm. We will discuss chapter 2 of "Church Elders" by Jeramie Rinne.

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> - Prayer Bible Studies:** Online with the usual Zoom details at 7.30 pm. All welcome.

**Friday 30<sup>th</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.

**Ladies' Bible Study** is will meet on 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.

**Thanks** to all who supported Effie and Sandy Finlay's Kiltwalk to support Inverness YMCA (CYC). Donations can be made either via their Facebook pages or directly to Effie or Sandy.

**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**.

**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 have a Meal Train set up for the Gillespies from Monday to support them. If you would like to be involved in preparing a meal get in touch with Carrie (details above).

**FOR PRAYER:** **Annette MacLean** has started treatment for cancer. **Tina Fraser** will have an operation on 27<sup>th</sup> April.

**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).