



The Free North Church Inverness

a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland

A GUIDE TO SUNDAY WORSHIP

11 am – Sunday 2nd May 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. The cap of 50 attendees has now been lifted. 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 ISAIAH 12)

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid.

The Lord, the Lord himself, is my strength and my defence;

he has become my salvation.

With joy we shall draw water from the wells of salvation. Amen.

THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Thomas Ken (1637-1711). Melody – The Old Hundredth. 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 **Glenurquhart & Fort Augustus** (minister Sean Ankers) and in **Broughty Ferry**, Dundee (minister Alberto de Paula).

BOOK OF THE MONTH

We still have some copies of *The Discipline of Grace* by Jerry Bridges (£10), and some copies of **Uncover** booklets to read a gospel one-to-one with a friend. **EXPLORE** daily Bible reading notes are also available (£3).

WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS

This morning we are delighted to welcome into the membership of the church **Peter and Johanna Wallace**. You can read more about them below (page 3).

BIBLE READINGS: JOHN 7:37-52 (READ BY STEWART VANT)

³⁷ On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.' ³⁹ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. ⁴⁰ On hearing his words, some of the people said, 'Surely this man is the Prophet.' ⁴¹ Others said, 'He is the Messiah.' Still others asked, 'How can the Messiah come from Galilee? ⁴² Does not Scripture say that the Messiah will come from David's descendants and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?' ⁴³ Thus the people were divided because of Jesus. ⁴⁴ Some wanted to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him.

⁴⁵ Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and the Pharisees, who asked them, ‘Why didn’t you bring him in?’ ⁴⁶ ‘No one ever spoke the way this man does,’ the guards replied. ⁴⁷ ‘You mean he has deceived you also?’ the Pharisees retorted. ⁴⁸ ‘Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed in him?’ ⁴⁹ No! But this mob that knows nothing of the law – there is a curse on them.’ ⁵⁰ Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus earlier and who was one of their own number, asked, ⁵¹ ‘Does our law condemn a man without first hearing him to find out what he has been doing?’ ⁵² They replied, ‘Are you from Galilee, too? Look into it, and you will find that a prophet does not come out of Galilee.’

HYMN: HOW SWEET THE NAME OF JESUS SOUNDS

How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds
In a believer’s ear!
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,
And drives away his fear.
It makes the wounded spirit whole,
And calms the troubled breast;
’Tis manna to the hungry soul,
And to the weary, rest.

Dear Name! The Rock on which I build,
My Shield and Hiding Place,
My never-failing treasury filled
With boundless stores of grace!

Jesus! My Shepherd, Brother, Friend,
My Prophet, Priest and King,
My Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,
Accept the praise I bring.

Weak is the effort of my heart,
And cold my warmest thought;
But when I see Thee as Thou are,
I’ll praise Thee as I ought.
I would Thy boundless love proclaim
With every fleeting breath;
And may the music of Thy Name
Refresh my soul in death.

Words John Newton (1725-1807). Recorded at the EMW Summer Conference, Aberystwyth, 2019. CCL License No. 616262. CCL Streaming License No. 324811.

SERMON: JOHN 7:37-52 – ARE YOU THIRSTY? COME TO ME AND DRINK

For 15 centuries people kept the Feast of Tabernacles. But it took Jesus words in the Temple to unpack the true meaning of the Feast. He alone can satisfy our thirst for God. **1) A SIGN FOR THE THIRSTY.** A water-pouring ceremony took place over 7 days of the feast. This pointed back to the Exodus period and pointed forward to the Messiah. Believers “with joy may draw waters from the wells of salvation”. Jesus took the symbolism and made it all about himself. **2) A PROMISE TO THE THIRSTY.** Jesus promised the refreshing gift of the Holy Spirit to all who believe. Like water, the Spirit brings new life. The crowds were divided in their response. Some show signs of thirst for Jesus, others sit on the fence, and many more resist him with violence. Are we thirsty? Will we drink? If you lack spiritual thirst, ASK! Only the Spirit can make you drink.

HYMN: WE WILL FEAST IN THE HOUSE OF ZION

*We will feast in the house of Zion.
We will sing with our hearts restored.
“He has done great things,” we will say together.
We will feast and weep no more.*

We will not be burned by the fire;
He is the LORD our God.
We are not consumed, by the flood.
Upheld, protected, gathered up.
We will feast...

In the dark of night, before the dawn,
My soul, be not afraid;
For the promised morning, oh how long!
O God of Jacob, be my strength.
We will feast...

Every vow we’ve broken and betrayed,
You are the Faithful One;
And from the garden to the grave,
Bind us together, bring shalom.
We will feast...

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

Minister (from John 13:34): Receive the Peace of God from the words of Jesus –

A new commandment I give to you: love one another.

As I have loved you, so you must love one another. The peace of Christ be with you all.

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 133:1-3 (SING PSALMS)

How excellent a thing it is,
how pleasant and how good,
When brothers dwell in unity
and live as brothers should!

For it is like the precious oil,
poured out on Aaron's head,
That, running over, down his beard,
upon his collar spread.

Like Hermon's dew, upon the hill
of Zion it descends.
The LORD bestows his blessing there—
the life that never ends.

*Recorded at Back Free Church for the album
'Sounds from Loch a Tuath', 2013. Words from
Sing Psalms © Free Church of Scotland, 2003.
Tune: Prince Edward Island (CM).*

BENEDICTION

**SUNDAY AT SIX – in-person and on our YOUTUBE CHANNEL at 6 PM tonight.
THE GOSPEL FOR INVERNESS – HEBREWS 1 – GOD'S FINAL WORD TO OUR CITY**

UPDATE ON CHURCH REOPENING PROCESS

From today we are delighted to welcome all who wish to attend in-person worship in our church building, and we are confident that this is as safe as possible. We have set the sanctuary seating capacity downstairs at 80 people plus any infants and children under 5. The gallery is available on Sunday mornings (apart from the front row) providing much additional seating. We continue to require 2-meter social distancing between different households. Use a face-covering (unless exempt or leading part of the service). We are required to keep a record of attendance for 21 days. Sunday School will meet in the church hall. This month on Wednesday evenings we return to a mix of online only and blended online and in-person meetings. Wednesday Church night will be in-person and online 12th and 26th May and online only every other week.

COMMUNION: We will share in communion at the 11 am service today. The bread and wine for communion is prepared in individual servings by team members with a Food Handling Certificate. Individual servings will be placed in 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 your own.

MEET PETER & JOHANNA WALLACE - Peter and Johanna moved to Inverness in December and since then they have been tuning in to the Free North services online and more recently have been able to attend a few times in person. They previously lived just outside Edinburgh and were members at St Columba's Free Church in the city. Johanna was brought up near Inverness and after studying at Aberdeen University, went on to train as an accountant. Peter was brought up in Carlisle and spent 27 years serving in the RAF, before

leaving in 2012. They are delighted to be transferring their membership to the Free North and are looking forward to getting to know the church family better.

Congratulations to **Martin MacLean** who has a new role with **Bethany Christian Trust**, as part of their growing team helping to prevent homelessness in the North of Scotland through recovery and resettlement. Bethany does a wonderful work, which deserves a place in our prayers. **Shivonne MacLean** also has good news, as she starts a Nursing degree this autumn.

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/ and christian.org.uk/scottish-election-briefing-2021/.

DIARY, NEWS & PRAYER

Monday 3rd - Presbytery meets (on Zoom) at 7 pm. Presbytery is a public meeting of leaders from our network of over 20 churches in our local region. Please ask for the log-on codes if you wish to attend.

Tuesday 4th - The **Guys Groups** meet online at 10 am and in-person at 7 pm in the new manse garden, 19 Mingary Crescent, Ness Castle. Notes for this final session available by email with this Service Guide.

Wednesday 5th – **Prayer for the City & Bible Study:** Online with the usual Zoom codes at 7.30 pm.

Thursday 6th - The **Ladies' Bible Study** is at 10.30 am and 7.45 pm on Zoom, studying 1 Peter 4. 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 20th May, 3rd & 17th June. For more details contact Carrie: carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org or 07583 498782.

Friday 7th - We meet online on Zoom at 11 am for 30 minutes of prayer and Bible reading. Usual log on.

Fellowship: We will welcome **Sean And Gin Ankers** from Glenurquhart to a Zoom Fellowship next Sunday 9th at 7.30 pm. We will hear about God's work in their lives, their work in the church and sports chaplaincy.

Youth Camps: Bookings are open until the end of May for **FCYC Connect**, online events for three different age groups (running over 12–16th July). Go to freechurchyouthcamps.org/connect to learn more.

PRAYER: Give thanks that we have been able to resume meeting in-person, and that the cap on numbers has been lifted. Pray for blessing on all who participate in our services in-person and online. Commit our **children and young folk** to the Lord. The latest prayer update from **Emma de Paula** is available today. Emma and Davi come to the end of their time in Edinburgh at the end of the summer. They hope to relocate to Moray, as Davi trains for the ministry, mentored by Rev Peter Turnbull. **Annette MacLean** has started treatment for cancer. Pray for relief from pain. **Tina Fraser** is home after treatment. Pray that God would be honoured in the **Scottish and other UK elections**, and that God would bless and work through those elected. Pray for **new parents** in our church family. Pray too for those **experiencing loss or difficulty having children**. Pray for our mission partner **Philip Amos**, working to share the love of Jesus the Messiah in a Jewish area of North London.

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.