



# The Free North Church Inverness

a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland

## A GUIDE TO SUNDAY WORSHIP

11 am – Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:angusmacrae1967@gmail.com)).

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It is a joy to welcome you back to in-person worship at the Free North. There is no need to book a place at our services, as we have capacity in our building for a large attendance. 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 MATTHEW 4)

Jesus began his ministry in Galilee as Isaiah predicted:

“Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.”

From that time on Jesus began to preach,

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” Amen.

### HYMN: GLORY BE TO GOD THE FATHER

Glory be to God the Father,  
Glory be to God the Son,  
Glory be to God the Spirit,  
Great Jehovah, Three-in-One!  
Glory, glory, glory, glory,  
while eternal ages run!

Glory be to Him who loved us,  
Washed us from each spot and stain!  
Glory be to Him who bought us,  
Made us kings with him to reign!  
Glory, glory, glory, glory,  
to the Lamb that once was slain!

Glory to the King of angels,  
Glory to the church's King,  
Glory to the King of nations!  
Heaven and earth, your praises bring:  
Glory, glory, glory, glory,  
to the King of glory bring!

'Glory, blessing, praise eternal!  
Thus the choir of angels sings;  
'Honour, riches, power, dominion!'  
Thus its praise creation brings:  
Glory, glory, glory, glory,  
Glory to the King of kings!

*Words Horatius Bonar (1808-89). Recorded at the EMW Summer Conference, Aberystwyth, 2016. CCL License No. 616262. CCL Streaming License No. 324811.*

### PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

This week our congregations are praying for our sister churches in **Gairloch, Kinlochewe & Torridon** (minister Colin MacLeod); **Christ Church Glasgow** (minister Jonathan de Groot); **East Kilbride** (vacant).

### BOOK OF THE MONTH

We don't have to look far to see pain and brokenness in our lives and the lives of those around us. This month we recommend two books to help us in a world of pain and suffering. *A Certain Brightness* by Philippa

Ruth Wilson is a book of short devotionals for troubled times, which point to Jesus as the light that shines into the darkness of our pain. A great resource for you in times of struggle and to give away to friends who are suffering. *I'm Praying For You* by Nancy Guthrie shows us how we can use the wealth of scripture to teach us how to pray for those who are suffering. £7 each or both books for £12. Speak to Carrie to get a copy (carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org or 07 583 498 782). We also have free **Uncover** booklets to read a gospel one-to-one with a friend. **EXPLORE** daily Bible reading notes are also available (£3).

### BIBLE READING: JOHN 8:12-30

<sup>12</sup> When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." <sup>13</sup> The Pharisees challenged him, "Here you are, appearing as your own witness; your testimony is not valid." <sup>14</sup> Jesus answered, "Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where I came from and where I am going. But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going." <sup>15</sup> You judge by human standards; I pass judgment on no one. <sup>16</sup> But if I do judge, my decisions are true, because I am not alone. I stand with the Father, who sent me. <sup>17</sup> In your own Law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is true. <sup>18</sup> I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father, who sent me." <sup>19</sup> Then they asked him, "Where is your father?" "You do not know me or my Father," Jesus replied. "If you knew me, you would know my Father also." <sup>20</sup> He spoke these words while teaching in the temple courts near the place where the offerings were put. Yet no one seized him, because his hour had not yet come. <sup>21</sup> Once more Jesus said to them, "I am going away, and you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I go, you cannot come." <sup>22</sup> This made the Jews ask, "Will he kill himself? Is that why he says, 'Where I go, you cannot come'?" <sup>23</sup> But he continued, "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. <sup>24</sup> I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins." <sup>25</sup> "Who are you?" they asked. "Just what I have been telling you from the beginning," Jesus replied. <sup>26</sup> "I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is trustworthy, and what I have heard from him I tell the world." <sup>27</sup> They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father. <sup>28</sup> So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. <sup>29</sup> The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him." <sup>30</sup> Even as he spoke, many believed in him.

### PSALM 126:1-6 (Sing Psalms Version)

When Zion's fortunes God restored,  
it was a dream come true.  
Our mouths were then with laughter filled,  
our tongues with songs anew.  
The nations said, "The LORD has done  
great things for Israel."  
The LORD did mighty things for us,  
and joy our hearts knew well.  
Restore our fortunes, gracious LORD,  
like streams in desert soil.

A joyful harvest will reward  
the weeping sower's toil.  
The man who, bearing seed to sow,  
goes out with tears of grief,  
Will come again with songs of joy,  
bearing his harvest sheaf.

*Tune: Brother James' Air (CM).*

*Words © 2003 Free Church of Scotland. Recorded at a  
Psalmody Recital in Glasgow City Free Church.*

### SERMON: JOHN 8:12-30 – THE UNWANTED LIGHT OF THE WORLD

At the Feast of Tabernacles in John 7, Jesus had used WATER as a signpost to himself. Now in John 8 he used LIGHT to show that we are spiritually thirsty and lost in darkness without him. **1) WHERE ARE WE FROM AND WHERE ARE WE GOING?** God guided ancient Israel with a pillar of fire and a cloud of glorious light. But Israel was now in darkness, just like other nations. They were from below, from darkness, and heading to everlasting darkness. Only the beauty and light of God could save them. **2). WHERE IS HE FROM AND WHERE IS HE GOING?** Jesus gave legal testimony, a witness about himself. He was from God, and would soon return to God by being lifted up on the cross. Do we respond in stubborn pride, hiding in the dark? Or will we walk

towards the light of the world?

### HYMN: HE WILL HOLD ME FAST

When I fear my faith will fail,  
Christ will hold me fast;  
When the tempter would prevail,  
He will hold me fast.  
I could never keep my hold  
Through life's fearful path;  
For my love is often cold;  
He must hold me fast.  
*He will hold me fast,  
He will hold me fast;  
For my Saviour loves me so,  
He will hold me fast.*

Those He saves are His delight,  
Christ will hold me fast;  
Precious in His holy sight,  
He will hold me fast.

He'll not let my soul be lost;  
His promises shall last;  
Bought by Him at such a cost,  
He will hold me fast. *Chorus*

For my life He bled and died,  
Christ will hold me fast;  
Justice has been satisfied;  
He will hold me fast.  
Raised with Him to endless life,  
He will hold me fast  
'Till our faith is turned to sight,  
When he comes at last! *Chorus*

*Words: v 1-2 Ada Habershon, v 3 Matt Merker. © 2013  
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Conference, Aberystwyth, 2019. CCL License  
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### BENEDICTION

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**SUNDAY AT SIX – in-person and on our YOUTUBE CHANNEL at 6 PM tonight.**  
**THE GOSPEL FOR INVERNESS – HEBREWS 1 & 2 – HOW GOD SPEAKS TO OUR CITY TODAY**  
Followed by a **Zoom Fellowship at 7:45 pm** with guests Sean and Gin Ankers.

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### UPDATE ON CHURCH REOPENING PROCESS

We are now able 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) on 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> May and online only every other week this month.

### DIARY, NEWS & PRAYER

We send best wishes to **Rev Chris Smart**, a former assistant minister in our congregation, who celebrates his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday today. Chris, Yazmine and their sons now live in Tampa, Florida, where he is pastor at Hope Church Presbyterian.

**New Parliament:** Pray for our nation and for all those recently elected as MSPs, particularly those representing our region from all parties. We are commanded to pray for *“all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”* (1 Timothy 3).

**Helping the response to Covid:** This week the Free Church made two donations from its Disaster Relief Fund. £5,000 was sent to Operación San Andrés in Peru, helping poor communities in the grip of the pandemic. £2,000 was given to Emmanuel Hospital Association in India, for an oxygen-generating machine. If you would like to donate to this or any other project of the central church go to [freechurch.org/donate/](https://freechurch.org/donate/)

The **Record** magazine for May is available free online ([https://issuu.com/freechurch/docs/the\\_record-may-21-web](https://issuu.com/freechurch/docs/the_record-may-21-web)). Advise Martin MacLean at our Church Office to set up a new subscription for a paper copy ([office@freenorthchurch.org](mailto:office@freenorthchurch.org)). From June a free edition will no longer be available online as deliveries of paper copies to congregations should resume as normal. Paid online subscriptions are also available at <https://issuu.com/freechurch>.

**Fellowship Tonight:** We will welcome **Sean And Gin Ankers** from Glenurquhart to a Zoom Fellowship tonight at 7.45 pm (usual log-on). This late start will give them time for their own evening service. We hope to hear something of God's work in their lives, their work in the local church and sports chaplaincy in shinty.

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> – Prayer & Bible Study:** Both in-person at the church and streamed online with the usual Zoom codes at 7.30 pm. Our various Home Groups will meet (online only) on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup>** - We meet online on Zoom at 11 am for 30 minutes of prayer and Bible reading. Usual log on.

The **Ladies' Bible Study on 1<sup>st</sup> Peter** meets on Thursdays 20<sup>th</sup> May, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> June on Zoom (10.30 am and 7.45 pm). All are welcome. You don't need to have been to previous studies to join in. For more details contact Carrie: [carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org](mailto:carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org) or 07583 498782.

The **Guys Group** had a successful in-person event last week and plans to continue meeting online and in-person to read another book together. We have selected **"Disciplines of a Godly Man"** by Kent Hughes. Copies are available at church (or can be delivered to your home). Please leave a marked donation of £9 in the offering plate to cover the cost, or send directly to the treasurer. Dates for the diary are Mondays 7<sup>th</sup> June and 5<sup>th</sup> July. We also hope to arrange some social events.

**The General Assembly** meets online from the evening of Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May, when Rev Neil MacMillan will be elected as Moderator.

**Women for Mission** holds an Annual Meeting online at 2.00 pm on Saturday 22nd May. For details of the meeting and annual projects visit [womenformission.org](http://womenformission.org).

**Youth Camps:** Bookings are open until the end of May for **FCYC Connect**, online events for three different age groups (running over 12–16<sup>th</sup> July). Go to [freechurchoyouthcamps.org/connect](https://freechurchoyouthcamps.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. Commit our **children and young folk** to the Lord. **Willie Murray** had a procedure in hospital last Friday. **Annette MacLean** has started treatment for cancer. Three years ago our mission partner **Patrick Jok** visited Inverness, when many of us were able to meet him. Pray for him and for the work of the Reformed Church in Sudan (mainly located in South Sudan).

**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).