



# The Free North Church Inverness

a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland

## A GUIDE TO SUNDAY WORSHIP

11 am – Sunday 16<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)).

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. There is no need to book as we have capacity for a large attendance. Services are streamed live on YouTube at 11 am and 6 pm each Sunday. Please subscribe to our channel: [www.youtube.com/c/FreeNorthChurchInverness](https://www.youtube.com/c/FreeNorthChurchInverness).

### WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP (FROM ISAIAH 12:4-6)

Thank the Lord! Praise his name! Tell the nations what he has done.

Let them know how mighty he is! Sing to the Lord, for he has done wonderful things.

Make known his praise around the world. Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion,

For great is the Holy One of Israel who lives among you. Amen.

### PSALM 122:1-9 (Scottish Psalter Version)

I joyed when to the house of God,

Go up, they said to me.

Jerusalem, within thy gates  
our feet shall standing be.

Jerus'lem, as a city, is  
compactly built together:

Unto that place the tribes go up,  
the tribes of God go thither:

To Isr'el's testimony, there  
to God's name thanks to pay.

For thrones of judgment, ev'n the thrones  
of David's house, there stay.

Pray that Jerusalem may have  
peace and felicity:

Let them that love thee and thy peace  
have still prosperity.

Therefore I wish that peace may still  
within thy walls remain,  
And ever may thy palaces  
prosperity retain.

Now, for my friends' and brethren's sakes,  
Peace be in thee, I'll say.

And for the house of God our Lord,  
I'll seek thy good alway.

### PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

This week our congregations are praying for our sister churches in **Garrabost**, Lewis (minister Iain Thomson) and **Ferintosh & Resolis**, Black Isle (minister Calum Iain MacLeod).

### 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. *A Certain Brightness* by Philippa Ruth Wilson is a book of short devotionals for troubled times. 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](mailto: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 8:31-59

<sup>31</sup>To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, 'If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. <sup>32</sup>Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.' <sup>33</sup>They answered him, 'We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?' <sup>34</sup>Jesus replied, 'Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it for ever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. <sup>37</sup>I know you are Abraham's descendants. Yet you are looking for a way to kill me, because you have no room for my word. <sup>38</sup>I am telling you what I have seen in the Father's presence, and you are doing what you have heard from your father.' <sup>39</sup>'Abraham is our father,' they answered. 'If you were Abraham's children,' said Jesus, 'then you would do what Abraham did. <sup>40</sup>As it is, you are looking for a way to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do such things. <sup>41</sup>You are doing the works of your own father.' 'We are not illegitimate children,' they protested. 'The only Father we have is God himself.' <sup>42</sup>Jesus said to them, 'If God were your Father, you would love me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on my own; God sent me. <sup>43</sup>Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. <sup>44</sup>You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. <sup>45</sup>Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me! <sup>46</sup>Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don't you believe me? <sup>47</sup>Whoever belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.' <sup>48</sup>The Jews answered him, 'Aren't we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?' <sup>49</sup>'I am not possessed by a demon,' said Jesus, 'but I honour my Father and you dishonour me. <sup>50</sup>I am not seeking glory for myself; but there is one who seeks it, and he is the judge. <sup>51</sup>Very truly I tell you, whoever obeys my word will never see death.' <sup>52</sup>At this they exclaimed, 'Now we know that you are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet you say that whoever obeys your word will never taste death. <sup>53</sup>Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?' <sup>54</sup>Jesus replied, 'If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. <sup>55</sup>Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and obey his word. <sup>56</sup>Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.' <sup>57</sup>'You are not yet fifty years old,' they said to him, 'and you have seen Abraham!' <sup>58</sup>'Very truly I tell you,' Jesus answered, 'before Abraham was born, I am!' <sup>59</sup>At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

### HYMN: COME YE SINNERS (I WILL ARISE)

Come ye sinners, poor and wretched,  
Weak and wounded, sick and sore;  
Jesus ready stands to save you,  
Full of pity, love, and power.  
*I will arise and go to Jesus  
He will embrace me in His arms;  
In the arms of my dear Saviour,  
Oh, there are ten thousand charms.*

Come ye needy, come and welcome,  
God's free bounty glorify;  
True belief and true repentance  
Every grace that brings you nigh.

Come, ye weary, heavy-laden.  
Bruised and broken by the fall;  
If you tarry till you're better,  
You will never come at all.

Let not conscience make you linger,  
Nor of fitness fondly dream;  
All the fitness He requireth  
Is to feel your need of Him.

Lo! Th' incarnate God, ascended,  
Pleads the merit of His blood;  
Venture on Him, venture wholly,  
Let no other trust intrude.

*Words Joseph Hart, 1759. © Poor Bishop Hooper, 2021.*

### SERMON: JOHN 8:31-59 – DO YOU EVEN WANT GOD'S TRUTH?

Jesus was far more divisive than any political figure in history. Many loathed him, but he demanded worship.

**1) JESUS CLAIMED EQUALITY WITH GOD (48-59).** By calling himself “I AM” (14 times in this gospel) Jesus used a divine title. The people were shocked and rejected his claims. But they also rejected the evidence God had given them that the claims were true. **2). JESUS CLAIMED TO BE THE SOURCE OF TRUTH (39-47).** Our attitude to his words and teaching reveals our spiritual parentage. If God is our Father, we love his truth. If the Devil is our spiritual parent, we believe his lies. **3). JESUS CLAIMED TO BE THE SOURCE OF FREEDOM (31-38).** Our era longs for personal freedom. The people of Israel thought they were free, but in reality they were in chains of slavery. We will never be free until Jesus frees us from sin and shame. He is willing and able, but demands that we come in faith and hold to him and his teaching. We face a choice today!

#### HYMN: SHOW US CHRIST

Prepare our hearts, O God.  
Help us to receive.  
Break the hard and stony ground.  
Help our unbelief.  
Plant Your Word down deep in us;  
cause it to bear fruit.  
Open up our ears to hear,  
lead us in Your truth.

*Show us Christ, show us Christ.  
O God, reveal Your glory  
through the preaching of Your Word.  
Until every heart confesses Christ is Lord.*

Your Word is living light  
upon our darkened eyes.

Guards us through temptations,  
makes the simple wise.  
  
Your Word is food for famished ones,  
Freedom for the slave.  
Riches for the needy soul.  
Come speak to us today.  
*Show us Christ...*

Where else can we go, Lord?  
Where else can we go?  
You have the words of eternal life.  
*Show us Christ...*

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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 2 – JESUS AND OUR CITY’S GREATEST FEARS**

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#### UPDATE ON CHURCH REOPENING PROCESS

We now welcome all who wish to attend in-person worship in our church building. The sanctuary seating capacity downstairs is 80 people (plus any children under 5). The upstairs gallery is available on Sunday mornings (apart from the front row) providing additional seating. Under present regulations we keep a record of attendance for 21 days. While at church we require 2-meter social distancing between different households and the use of a face-covering indoors (unless exempt or leading part of the service). We expect to see some easing of these restrictions and the ban on congregational singing over the coming months. On Wednesday evenings we have a mix of online only and blended online and in-person meetings. This Wednesday (19<sup>th</sup>) we meet online in our various community groups. We will meet both in-person and online on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May. Highland Region is expected to go down to Covid Tier Level 2 from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May. This change allows for some freedom to meet others in our homes and gardens. With care and wisdom we should have greater opportunities to grow in fellowship and personal witness.

#### DIARY, NEWS & PRAYER

The 2021 **Free Church General Assembly** meets online from 6 pm on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May, when Rev Neil MacMillan will be elected as Moderator. See the Assembly at <https://freechurch.org/online-services/live>.

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> - Small Group Bible Studies:** Various groups meet on Zoom at 7.30 pm for Bible Study. Use the usual Zoom codes for the central group. To join a small group ask Angus our minister or any of the elders. This week we study **Psalm 27:1-6**. See questions 1-9, pages 29-30, in *Soul Songs*, by Tim Chester.

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> - The Ladies' Bible Study** is at 10.30 am and 7.45 pm, on Zoom, where we'll be studying **1 Peter 4:12-19**. All are welcome, you don't need to have been to previous studies to join in. For details contact Carrie: [carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org](mailto:carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org) or 07583 498782. Future studies will be on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> June.

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup>** - We meet online on Zoom at 11 am for 30 minutes of prayer and Bible reading. Usual log on.

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

**Stewardship Sunday:** On the last Sunday in May we plan to share an update on how we use the resources God has given us, and how each of us we can focus intentionally on giving to extend the Kingdom of God.

The **Guys Group** 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). Future dates: Mondays 7<sup>th</sup> June and 5<sup>th</sup> July. We also hope to arrange some social events.

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 at the Church Office to set up a new subscription for a paper copy.

**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](http://freechurchoyouthcamps.org/connect) to learn more.

**Hope Church Aviemore** is a recently planted gospel church. A family with three young children hopes to move to the area from the North East of England to support the ministry of Pastor Kenny Rogan and Hope Church, but they are struggling to find suitable housing. If you have any leads on housing to rent or buy in the Aviemore area suitable for a family please contact Fiona Gibson (daughter of one of our members, Mrs Ishbel Graham) and Fiona can share these leads with her friends ([fgibson2011@gmail.com](mailto:fgibson2011@gmail.com)).

**PRAYER:** Little **Esther Mary** had a difficult week, needing support in hospital for her breathing. Keep Esther and all the family in your prayers. Pray that she would be strong enough to breath and feed without support, and soon able to go home. Pray for our **YF, Sunday School** and young people. Pray for all in the church family who are unwell including **Annette MacLean, Willie Murray, Tina Fraser** and **Iain MacLeod**. The **Dunn** family in Greyfriars have suffered a very sudden and sad bereavement last week. May they and all who sorrow find comfort in the gospel. Our mission partner **Patrick Jok** visited Inverness three years ago. Pray for him and for the work of the Reformed Church in Sudan (mainly in South Sudan). As we pray for peace, security and justice for all who live in and around **Jerusalem**, we pray for Jews, Arabs and all peoples in the region to experience God's true grace. Pray for the **Merkinch** Church plant. Pray for the launch team, for the resumed Sunday services, for good community links, for the new Thursday Café, and for many people to come to faith in Jesus.

**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).