



# The Free North Church Inverness

a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland

## A GUIDE TO SUNDAY WORSHIP

11 am – Sunday 23<sup>rd</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 MATTHEW 11)

Minister: Jesus prayed this prayer: *O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, thank you for hiding these things from those who think themselves wise and clever, and for revealing them to the childlike.*

*No one truly knows the Son except the Father, and no one truly knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.*

All: Jesus said: *Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.*

*Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Amen.*

### TURN YOUR EYES UPON JESUS

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
Look full in His wonderful face,  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,  
In the light of His glory and grace.

Turn your eyes to the hillside,  
Where justice and mercy embraced.  
There the Son of God gave His life for us,  
And our measureless debt was erased.

*Jesus, to You we lift our eyes,  
Jesus, our glory and our prize.*

*We adore You, behold You, our Saviour ever true,  
Oh Jesus, we turn our eyes to You.*

Turn your eyes to the morning  
And see Christ the Lion awake.  
What a glorious dawn, fear of death is gone,  
For we carry His life in our veins.

Turn your eyes to the heavens,  
Our King will return for His own.  
Every knee will bow, every tongue will shout,  
'All glory to Jesus alone!'

*Words & Melody: V. 1 Helen H. Lemmel. Additional words and chorus by George Romanacce, Kevin Winebarger, Nathan Stiff, Nic Trout. © 2019 Sovereign Grace Worship / Integrity Music. Song # 7120053.  
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### PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

This week we pray for sister churches in **Rosskeen** (minister Calum Macmillan) and **Livonia** (Michigan, USA).

### BOOK OF THE MONTH

This month we recommend two books to help us in a world of pain. *A Certain Brightness* by Philippa Ruth Wilson contains short devotionals for troubled times. A great resource for you or to give to friends who are suffering. *I'm Praying For You* by Nancy Guthrie uses scripture to show us how to pray for others. £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.

**BIBLE READING: JOHN 9:1-16,35-41**

<sup>1</sup> As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ <sup>3</sup> ‘Neither this man nor his parents sinned,’ said Jesus, ‘but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup> As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.’ <sup>6</sup> After saying this, he spat on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. <sup>7</sup> ‘Go,’ he told him, ‘wash in the Pool of Siloam’ (this word means ‘Sent’). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. <sup>8</sup> His neighbours and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, ‘Isn’t this the same man who used to sit and beg?’ <sup>9</sup> Some claimed that he was. Others said, ‘No, he only looks like him.’ But he himself insisted, ‘I am the man.’ <sup>10</sup> ‘How then were your eyes opened?’ they asked. <sup>11</sup> He replied, ‘The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see.’ <sup>12</sup> ‘Where is this man?’ they asked him. ‘I don’t know,’ he said. <sup>13</sup> They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. <sup>14</sup> Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. <sup>15</sup> Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. ‘He put mud on my eyes,’ the man replied, ‘and I washed, and now I see.’ <sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, ‘This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.’ But others asked, ‘How can a sinner perform such signs?’ So they were divided... <sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ <sup>36</sup> ‘Who is he, sir?’ the man asked. ‘Tell me so that I may believe in him.’ <sup>37</sup> Jesus said, ‘You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.’ <sup>38</sup> Then the man said, ‘Lord, I believe,’ and he worshipped him. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, ‘For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.’ <sup>40</sup> Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, ‘What? Are we blind too?’ <sup>41</sup> Jesus said, ‘If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.’

**PSALM 146:5-10 (SING PSALMS)**

Blessèd is the one who truly  
looks for help to Jacob’s God;  
Blessèd is the one who places  
all his hope upon the LORD—

He who made the earth and heaven  
and the seas, with all their store;  
He who keeps his every promise,  
who is faithful evermore.

He delivers from oppression  
and relieves the hungry’s plight.  
He releases those in prison;  
to the blind the LORD gives sight.

Those who are bowed down he raises.  
God delights in righteousness.  
He protects and cares for strangers,  
widows and the fatherless.

He frustrates the wicked’s purpose.  
So the LORD through endless days  
Reigns to every generation.  
Praise your God, O Zion, praise!

*Tune: Stuttgart (8787) - Sung by John MacAulay & Chris MacLeod. Sing Psalms, Free Church of Scotland, 2003.*

**SERMON: JOHN 9 – WHAT CAN YOU SEE?**

When you read about Jesus, and the seven miraculous “signs” recorded in this gospel, what do you see? **1) DO YOU SEE A MERE MAN, OR GOD? (1-12).** Jesus’ disciples lacked vision and compassion. They looked for explanations for suffering, for someone to blame. But Jesus directed them to look for what God was doing. The suffering of this blind man led to the glory of God, as Jesus gave the man an eye-opening sign of power and mercy. The healed man still saw Jesus as a mere MAN. But that was about to change. **2). DO YOU HAVE A GROWING VISION, OR GROWING BLINDNESS? (13-34).** The healing sign took place on a Sabbath and

involved Jesus in contact with unclean things like dirt and spit! An enquiry by the Pharisees was called for. They said not a single word in praise of God, but they harassed the man and his parents, trying to accuse Jesus of being a sinner. They grew in their blind hostility, while the formerly blind man grew ever more bold in his spiritual vision and his witness for Jesus. **3). DO YOU HAVE ETERNAL VISION, OR ETERNAL GUILT? (35-41).** The man became a believer and a worshipper of Jesus, the Son of Man. He gained eternal vision and eternal life. The Pharisees recognise Jesus' words as a warning that they are blind, but stubbornly refuse to respond in faith and repentance. The man was perhaps still young, just a bar mitzvah boy? But he grew in spiritual vision. The stubborn and blind leaders threw him out of the temple, even as the Lord of the temple welcomed him in. Are your eyes open? Ask for the Holy Spirit to give you eternal vision.

#### **HYMN: ONE DAY (WHEN WE ALL GET TO HEAVEN)**

*When we all get to heaven,  
What a day of rejoicing that will be!  
When we all see Jesus,  
We'll sing and shout the victory!*

One day, You'll make everything new, Jesus.  
One day, You will bind every wound.  
The former things shall all pass away -  
No more tears.

One day, You'll make sense of it all, Jesus.  
One day every question resolved.  
Ev'ry anxious thought left behind -  
No more fear.

One day we will see face to face, Jesus.  
Is there a greater vision of grace?  
And in a moment we shall be changed -

On that day.  
And one day, we'll be free, free indeed, Jesus.  
One day, all this struggle will cease,  
And we will see Your glory revealed -  
On that day.

One day we will see face to face, Jesus.  
Is there a greater vision of grace?  
In a moment, we shall be changed,  
Yes, in a moment, we shall be changed,  
In a moment, we shall be changed -  
On that day!

*Recorded at EMW Conference 2018. Lyrics Eliza Hewitt (1851-1920). Additional lyrics, Matt & Beth Redman, & Leonard Jarman. CCLI Song #7091537. © 2017 Said and Done Music, Sixsteps Music. CCL License No. 616262. CCL Streaming No. 324811.*

#### **BENEDICTION**

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**SUNDAY AT SIX – in-person and on our YOUTUBE CHANNEL at 6 PM tonight.  
THE GOSPEL FOR INVERNESS – HEBREWS 2-3 – JESUS AND OUR CITY'S SHAME**

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#### **UPDATE ON SAFELY ATTENDING CHURCH**

We now welcome ALL who wish to attend in-person worship in our church building. We encourage you to attend if you can and believe it is safe for most people to do so. Please invite your friends and family to join you. 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 coming months. On Wednesday evenings we have a mix of online only and blended online and in-person meetings. This Wednesday (26<sup>th</sup>) we will meet both in-person and online. Highland Region is expected to go down to Covid Tier Level 2. This 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

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>** – Our Elders meet online on Zoom at 7.30 pm for prayer, fellowship and equipping. Please read “*Church Elders*”, chapter 3, pages 45-56.

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> – Church Night at 7.30 pm.** Both in person at the church and online on YouTube.

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup>** - We meet online on Zoom at 11 am for 30 minutes of prayer and Bible reading. Usual log on.  
**Stewardship Sunday:** Next Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> we plan to share an update on how we use the resources God has generously given us, and how each of us we can focus intentionally on giving to extend the Kingdom of God.

**The Ladies’ Bible Study** will meet next on Thursdays 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> June (10.30 am and 7.45 pm on Zoom). For details contact Carrie: [carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org](mailto:carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org) or 07583 498782. Future studies.

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 hope to arrange some social events. The first is a get together at the CYC on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June. On the menu is curry, pool, and international football.

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:** Give thanks for the work of the **General Assembly**, the Moderator Neil MacMillan, and the various Boards and staff who serve the church. The mission of the Free Church is to have a healthy gospel church in every community. We give thanks that little **Esther Mary** is now home and doing well. Continue to pray for those who are unwell including **Annette MacLean, Willie Murray, Tina Fraser and Iain MacLeod**. Pray for our friends in the **Faith Mission**, sharing the good news at Drive-in Services in Tain this weekend. Pray for peace, security and justice for all who live in and around **Jerusalem**, for an immediate end to violence, and for a movement turning to God’s true grace for all peoples in the region. We pray for areas badly affected by the **pandemic**, particularly India, Nepal and Brazil, and remembering the witness of God’s people in these places. Pray for the **Merkinch** Church plant. Pray for the 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. As we pray for more workers for God’s harvest we commit to God ministry students going on summer placement and for those being licensed and ordained this year.

**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).