



The Free North Church Inverness

a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland

A GUIDE TO SUNDAY WORSHIP

11 am – Sunday 30th 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. 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.

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP (FROM PSALM 4:3,5,8)

Minister: *You can be sure of this: The Lord set apart the godly for himself.*

The Lord will answer when I call to him.

All: *Offer sacrifices in the right spirit, and trust the Lord.*

In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, O Lord, will keep me safe. 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.

TALK TO CHILDREN

HYMN: HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE (SUNG LIVE)

How deep the Father's love for us;
How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss;
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there

Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life;
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart –
His wounds have paid my ransom.

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PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

This week we pray for our sister churches at **St. Peter's, Dundee** (minister Andy Pearson) and **Kilmallie & Ardnamurchan** (minister Euan Dodds).

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY – WHY WE GIVE TO GOD

Sandy Finlay will share some principles from the Bible for giving to support the Kingdom of God. We will also hear an update on the way our local church uses its resources.

BIBLE READING: 1 CHRONICLES 29:1-20

¹Then King David said to the whole assembly: 'My son Solomon, the one whom God has chosen, is young and inexperienced. The task is great, because this palatial structure is not for man but for the Lord God. ²With all my resources I have provided for the temple of my God – gold for the gold work, silver for the silver, bronze for the bronze, iron for the iron and wood for the wood, as well as onyx for the settings, turquoise, stones of various colours, and all kinds of fine stone and marble – all of these in large quantities. ³Besides, in my devotion to the temple of my God I now give my personal treasures of gold and silver for the temple of my God, over and above everything I have provided for this holy temple: ⁴three thousand talents of gold (gold of Ophir) and seven thousand talents of refined silver, for the overlaying of the walls of the buildings, ⁵for the gold work and the silver work, and for all the work to be done by the craftsmen. Now, who is willing to consecrate themselves to the Lord today?' ⁶Then the leaders of families, the officers of the tribes of Israel, the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, and the officials in charge of the king's work gave willingly. ⁷They gave towards the work on the temple of God five thousand talents and ten thousand darics of gold, ten thousand talents of silver, eighteen thousand talents of bronze and a hundred thousand talents of iron. ⁸Anyone who had precious stones gave them to the treasury of the temple of the Lord in the custody of Jehiel the Gershonite. ⁹The people rejoiced at the willing response of their leaders, for they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord. David the king also rejoiced greatly. ¹⁰David praised the Lord in the presence of the whole assembly, saying, 'Praise be to you, Lord, the God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. ¹¹Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendour, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. ¹²Wealth and honour come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. ¹³Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name. ¹⁴'But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. ¹⁵We are foreigners and strangers in your sight, as were all our ancestors. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope. ¹⁶Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you. ¹⁷I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things I have given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you. ¹⁸Lord, the God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Israel, keep these desires and thoughts in the hearts of your people for ever, and keep their hearts loyal to you. ¹⁹And give my son Solomon the wholehearted devotion to keep your commands, statutes and decrees and to do everything to build the palatial structure for which I have provided.' ²⁰Then David said to the whole assembly, 'Praise the Lord your God.' So they all praised the Lord, the God of their fathers; they bowed down, prostrating themselves before the Lord and the king.

SERMON: 1 CHRONICLES 29:14 – A GIFT FOR THE GIVING GOD

The Covid pandemic has created many fears, including economic uncertainty. Many folk worry about their jobs and financial security. But this is a good time to think about our attitudes to money, and to how we use our time, our talents and our resources to serve God and build up others. Jesus talked a lot about money. We need biblical teaching to guide us away from our fears or from too much trust in outward sources of security. God gives us everything that we have, but He must be our treasure! From 1 Chronicles 29 we learn about two things. **1) THE GIFT OF GIVING IN TIGHT TIMES. 2). THE GIFT OF GIVING FROM A JOYFUL HEART.** God gives each of us different things and different abilities to serve or to give. But we can all respond to his gifts to us by giving back our time, skills and treasure to serve God. Some of the 'giving-heroes' in scripture were outwardly very poor, but inwardly rich towards God in their faith, love and devotion. We should review and plan what we wish to give, always praying for the right heart-attitudes to our possessions. We can

especially look at our use of our precious commodity of time. God is calling us to make an active choice to prioritise prayer, worship, and service. For most of us that must mean making it a priority to meet with others and to share our lives with them. Pray that you would do all this with gratitude and joy.

PSALM 105:1-11 (Sing Psalms version)

Give thanks to the LORD God and call on his name;
His wonderful deeds to the nations proclaim.
Sing praises to him, and his exploits record;
Let all those who seek him rejoice in the LORD.

You chosen ones, look to the LORD and his might;
Seek ever his face, and his wonders recite,
His miracles too, and his judgments divine—
You children of Abraham, Jacob’s own line.

The LORD is our God, and he rules all the earth.

Rememb’ring his cov’nant—the word he set forth—
He vowed, for the ages to come, to make good
His promise to Abr’ham, to Isaac renewed.

To Jacob his sov’ reign decree was made sure;
With Isr’el his cov’nant would always endure:
“To you I will give, as your portion to stand,
The country of Canaan, the beautiful land.”

Tune: Foundation (11.11.11.11. an old folk tune from the American South). Words © Free Church of Scotland 2003. Recording from Psalms for All Seasons © 2007.

BENEDICTION

**SUNDAY AT SIX – in-person and on our YOUTUBE CHANNEL at 6 PM tonight.
THE GOSPEL FOR INVERNESS – HEBREWS 3:7-19
STOPPING A CHURCH AND A CITY FROM GOING ASTRAY**

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

Thank you to all who give generously and sacrificially to maintain and develop the work of our church and to extend God’s Kingdom. Today we want to reflect on why we give and how to give and get involved in the life of the church family. If you wish to start giving regularly our “Free North Church” Bank account is 82-65-18, account number 40246657. You can donate at our website (PayPal logo) or by contacting Mrs Barbara Macphail: treasurer@freenorthchurch.org. Donations can be for our general fund, for a specific project (such as the Women’s Pastoral Worker, The Church Plant, or the Live Stream project) or earmarked for our local *Congregational Development Fund*. In the first quarter of 2021 we thank God for a 26% increase in our income. Some people like to give early in the year which explains part of that healthy figure. Our expenditure is also up by 29%. This reflects costs to set up our new live streaming project early this year. In 2020 many moved from donating by cash in the offering plate to giving regularly through their bank account or via our church website. Around 43% of our funds went to the denomination (to pay stipends and pensions for our ministers Angus MacRae and Chris Davidson, and to contribute to shared costs such as training pastors and mission and church planting). We gave 10% of our income to selected Mission Partners in the UK and around the world. 12% went on other local salaries (such as Women’s Pastoral Worker and Church Officer). 27% was spent on running and repairing our buildings. The remaining money was spent on various local ministries. Our local Presbytery would like each local church to give 1% this year and then 2% every year to help with church planting, training and church revitalisation over our network of around 20 local churches.

CHURCH UPDATE – CHANGES TO COVID REGULATIONS

We welcome ALL who wish to attend in-person worship to our building and encourage everyone who can to do so. We believe it is safe for most people to participate in-person. Highland Region should move into Covid Tier Level 1 on 7th June, after which congregational singing should once again be permitted indoors. If this is confirmed by the Government, we will resume congregational praise as soon as we can. With this welcome news, this is an excellent time to think about inviting friends and family to join you in worship. The sanctuary seating capacity downstairs is 80 people (plus children under 5). The upstairs gallery is available on Sunday mornings (apart from the front row) providing seating for up to an additional 100. The hall has capacity for 40 people, with space for 20 in the fellowship area. While we encourage conversation, please take care to avoid blocking doors and exits and ensure social distancing between different households. Kindly use a face-covering indoors (unless exempt or leading part of the service). We must keep a record of attendance for 21 days. During June all our Wednesday evening meetings will all be in-person and on YouTube. We now have some greater freedom to meet others in our homes and gardens. With care we plan to arrange a range of activities to help us grow in fellowship and personal witness over the coming months.

DIARY, NEWS & PRAYER

Update on Carrie Marlow: Our Women's Pastoral Worker has moved to a new address, **6 Iona Road, Inverness, IV3 8LY**. It is great to welcome her parents to Inverness this weekend. Carrie will give an update on her work in the evening service tonight.

Wednesday 2nd – Prayer for the City Church Night at 7.30 pm. This is in-person at the church and online on YouTube. Please try to attend if you can, as our church and city needs prayer.

Thursday 3rd – The Ladies' Bible Study is at 10.30 am and 7.45 pm looking at 1 Peter 5:1-10. All are welcome to join. Get in touch with Carrie for details: carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org or 07583 498782. (Next study on 17th June).

Thursday 3rd – The Kirk Session will meet in-person in the church fellowship area at 7.30 pm.

Friday 4th - We meet online on Zoom at 11 am for 30 minutes of prayer and Bible reading. Usual log on.

Next Sunday: Angus is taking a weekend off, and we are grateful to Donnie MacLeod for taking our services on Sunday 6th June.

Monday 7th June - the Guys Group meets online at 10 am and in-person at 7 pm at Brian Cameron's home, 12 Culduthel Mains Crescent. We have selected "***Disciplines of a Godly Man***" by Kent Hughes as a guide to discussion. Copies are available at church (or can be delivered to your home). It is not vital to read the book but it will help. For our next gathering take a read of pages 15-25 and the study questions on page 26. The books cost £9. Pop a marked envelope in the offering plate or send directly to the treasurer. Next date Monday 5th July.

Guys Group Social: A social event is planned at the CYC on Friday 18th June from 7 pm. Please let Brian know if you can attend and if you have a preferred curry for a takeaway delivery (bdcameron77@googlemail.com). The Scotland v England match will be shown at 8 pm for the football fans among us.

Book of the Month: This month we recommend two books to help us in a world of pain. *A Certain Brightness*, short devotionals by Philippa Ruth Wilson. We also recommend *I'm Praying For You* by Nancy Guthrie. £7 each or both books for £12. (Copies are available at church or you can order from carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org or 07 583 498 782).