



# Welcome to the Free North

a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland

## A GUIDE TO SUNDAY WORSHIP 11 am – Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Sunday services at 11 am & at 6 pm are both online & in-person. We welcome **Mr Donnie MacLeod**, an elder in the congregation and a full time gospel worker with the Faith Mission who will conduct our services today. Our minister, **Rev Angus MacRae**, is taking this weekend off. You can contact Angus: (01463) 832616. Mobile: 07506 006459. Email: [angusmacrae1967@gmail.com](mailto:angusmacrae1967@gmail.com). You can also contact **Carrie Marlow** our **Women's Pastoral Worker**: [carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org](mailto:carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org) or 07583 498782. Carrie recently moved to a new address, 6 Iona Road, Inverness, IV3 8LY.

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](http://www.youtube.com/c/FreeNorthChurchInverness). From 5<sup>th</sup> June 2021 the Highland region entered Covid Protection Tier Level 1. This welcome news means our congregation is once again permitted to sing songs of praise in live indoor services. The Scottish Government continues to advise that face masks be worn, if possible, unless you are exempt or are leading part of an act of worship.

### WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP (FROM PSALM 40:16-17)

*But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;  
may those who long for your saving help always say, "The Lord is great!"  
But as for me, I am poor and needy; may the Lord think of me.  
You are my help and my deliverer; you are my God, do not delay. Amen.*

### PSALM 122:1-11 (SCOTTISH PSALTER)

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 away.

### PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

This week we pray for our sister churches at **South Uist & Benbecula** (minister Tom Penman), **Dowanvale, Glasgow** (minister Kenny Macleod) and **Rogart** (cared for by Duncan MacLeod, minister at Dornoch).

## TALK TO CHILDREN

### BIBLE READING: ISAIAH 55

<sup>1</sup> 'Come, all you who are thirsty,  
come to the waters;  
and you who have no money,  
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without cost.

<sup>2</sup> Why spend money on what is not bread,  
and your labour on what does not satisfy?  
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,  
and you will delight in the richest of fare.

<sup>3</sup> Give ear and come to me;  
listen, that you may live.

I will make an everlasting covenant with you,  
my faithful love promised to David.

<sup>4</sup> See, I have made him a witness to the peoples,  
a ruler and commander of the peoples.

<sup>5</sup> Surely you will summon nations you know not,  
and nations you do not know will come running  
to you,

because of the Lord your God,  
the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has endowed you with splendour.'

<sup>6</sup> Seek the Lord while he may be found;  
call on him while he is near.

<sup>7</sup> Let the wicked forsake their ways  
and the unrighteous their thoughts.

Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy  
on them,  
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

<sup>8</sup> 'For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways,'  
declares the Lord.

<sup>9</sup> 'As the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

<sup>10</sup> As the rain and the snow  
come down from heaven,  
and do not return to it  
without watering the earth  
and making it bud and flourish,  
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for  
the eater,

<sup>11</sup> so is my word that goes out from my mouth:  
it will not return to me empty,  
but will accomplish what I desire  
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup> You will go out in joy  
and be led forth in peace;  
the mountains and hills  
will burst into song before you,  
and all the trees of the field  
will clap their hands.

<sup>13</sup> Instead of the thorn-bush will grow the juniper,  
and instead of briars the myrtle will grow.  
This will be for the Lord's renown,  
for an everlasting sign,  
that will endure for ever.'

### THERE IS A REDEEMER

There is a Redeemer,  
Jesus, God's own Son,  
precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
Holy One.

*Thank You, O my Father,  
for giving us Your Son,  
And leaving Your Spirit  
till the work on earth is done.*

Jesus, my Redeemer,  
name above all names,  
precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
O for sinners slain: *Thank You...*

When I stand in glory  
I will see His face,  
and there I'll serve my King for ever  
in that holy place. *Thank You...*

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### SERMON: ISAIAH 55:6 – A MESSAGE FOR EVERYONE

**Isaiah 55:6** "Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; everyone is summoned to take heed. No one is excluded. In verse 1 we have the words "come all."

**1. Seek the Lord** The truth is we all need God. We are fully dependent on Him for our bodily needs, He gives every breath. So if we are dependent on Him for the needs of our bodies, which one day will die, what about our souls? That is the part of you that will never die. **Isa 55:2** Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your labour for that which does not satisfy? If you are to find favour with God you need to seek Him. The most likely place to find Him is in His word, the Bible. The time to seek Him is "While He may be found." This talks of urgency as there will come a time when He will not be found. It will be too late!

**2. Call on Him** Seeking and calling are similar and genuine seeking will lead to calling. "Call on Him while He is near". There is a sense that He is always near, God is ever present. Yet there are times when the opportunities seem more likely. When the Word is being preached is one of those times. Again there will be a time when He is not near. What a tragedy to have had so many opportunities and still not be saved. **Heb 4:7** He appoints a certain day, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts."

**3. Alive in Him** It is very encouraging to hear of someone genuinely seeking the Lord. If you have never come to God and called out to him for forgiveness, will you turn from your own ways and thoughts to Him? In doing that, you can know forgiveness full and free (v7) from every sin. **Isa 55:3** "Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live."

### PSALM 130:1-8 (SING PSALMS VERSION)

LORD, from the depths I call to you;  
Lord, hear me from on high  
And give attention to my voice  
when I for mercy cry.

LORD, in your presence who can stand,  
if you our sins record?  
But yet forgiveness is with you,  
that we may fear you, LORD.

I wait—my soul waits—for the LORD;  
my hope is in his word.  
More than the watchman waits for dawn  
my soul waits for the Lord.

O Isr'el, put your hope in God,  
for mercy is with him  
And full redemption. From their sins  
his people he'll redeem.

*CM. Words © Free Church of Scotland 2003.*

### BENEDICTION

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**SUNDAY AT SIX – in-person and on our YOUTUBE CHANNEL at 6 PM tonight.  
Conducted by Mr Donnie MacLeod.**

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### THANKS

Alistair and Kirsteen thank everyone for all of the meals, gifts, cards and prayers over the last few weeks since Esther Mary was born. It has been greatly appreciated. Some dishes and Tupperware needing to be returned have been placed in the church kitchen for their owners to retrieve.

Our congregation is grateful to Catriona MacDonald from the Cumbernauld congregation, who has designed a new Free North logo for use on our publicity, outreach, print and online publications. Thanks to the team who worked with Catriona and the person who donated all costs. We hope to update our website and online activities in the coming weeks incorporating the new logo.

### 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. As noted above, Highland Region is now in Covid Protection Tier Level 1 and so congregational singing is permitted indoors. With this welcome news, this is an excellent time to think about inviting friends and family to join you in worship. We have determined 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 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

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> July.

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> – 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.

"**Road to Recovery** will resume in person meetings on Thursday evening at 7.30pm in the fellowship area of the church. Entrance as usual via the side door. Contact Martin if you would like to know more."

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

Next weekend: The elders have agreed to hold **Communion** next Sunday morning, 13<sup>th</sup> June. Contact the minister or any elder if you wish to discuss your faith in Jesus or becoming a member in the local church.

The next **Ladies' Bible Study** is at 10.30 am and 7.45 pm on 17<sup>th</sup> June. Get in touch with Carrie for details: [carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org](mailto:carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org) or 07583 498782.

**Guys Group Social:** A social event is planned at the CYC on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:bdcameron77@googlemail.com)). The Scotland v England match will be shown at 8 pm for the football fans among us.

**Book of the Month:** We still have some copies of two books to help us in a world of pain. *A Certain Brightness*, short devotionals by Philippa Ruth Wilson. Also *I'm Praying For You* by Nancy Guthrie. £7 each or both books for £12. (Available at church or order from [carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org](mailto:carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org) or 07 583 498 782). We also have copies of *Explore* daily bible reading notes (July-September, £3). If you would like to read a gospel with a friend please ask Carrie for some free copies of the **Uncover** booklets, which should help in sharing the good news with others.

**Supporting our work:** Thank you to all who give generously and sacrificially to maintain and develop the work of our church and to extend God's Kingdom. If you wish to give regularly our "Free North Church" Bank account is 82-65-18, account number 40246657. Or you can donate at our website (PayPal logo). Direct any enquiries to Mrs Barbara Macphail: [treasurer@freenorthchurch.org](mailto:treasurer@freenorthchurch.org). Donations can be for our general fund, for a specific project (such as the Women's Worker, or the Live Stream project) or earmarked for our local Congregational Development Fund.