



# Welcome to the Free North

a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland

## A GUIDE TO SUNDAY WORSHIP 11 am – Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Sunday services at 11 am & at 6 pm, both online & in-person, are led by our minister, **Rev Angus MacRae**. Contact Angus on: (01463) 832616; Mobile: 07506 006459; Email: [angusmacrae1967@gmail.com](mailto:angusmacrae1967@gmail.com). You can contact **Carrie Marlow** our **Women's Pastoral Worker** on: [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.

There is no need to book for in-person worship 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). Highland Region is in Covid Protection Tier Level 1. This means we are permitted to sing songs of praise during services. The Scottish Government advises that face coverings be worn (if possible). Those leading worship and certain others are exempt from this requirement.

### WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP (FROM EZEKIEL 34:6,11,16,22,23, PSALM 23:1)

*Minister: My sheep wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. They were scattered over the whole earth, and no one searched or looked for them. ALL: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

*Minister: The Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. ALL: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

*Minister: I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice. I will save my flock... I will place over them one shepherd... he will tend them and be their shepherd. ALL: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

### PSALM 23 (STUART TOWNEND'S VERSION)

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.  
He makes me lie in pastures green.  
He leads me by the still, still waters,  
His goodness restores my soul.

*And I will trust in You alone,  
And I will trust in You alone.  
For Your endless mercy follows me,  
Your goodness will lead me home.*

He guides my ways in righteousness,

And He anoints my head with oil,  
And my cup, it overflows with joy,  
I feast on His pure delights.

And though I walk the darkest path,  
I will not fear the evil one,  
For You are with me, and Your rod and staff  
Are the comfort I need to know.

*Words & Music Stuart Townend  
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### PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

This week we pray for our sister churches at **Trotternish** in Skye (vacant, cared for by Rev Gordon Matheson minister at Sleat), and **Pairc** in Lewis (minister Rev Iain MacRitchie).

### BIBLE READING: JOHN 10:1-21 (READ BY FRANCES CAMPBELL)

'Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber.<sup>2</sup> The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.<sup>3</sup> The

gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognise a stranger's voice.' <sup>6</sup> Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them. <sup>7</sup> Therefore Jesus said again, 'Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. <sup>11</sup> 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. <sup>13</sup> The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. <sup>14</sup> 'I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me – <sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me and I know the Father – and I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> I have other sheep that are not of this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. <sup>17</sup> The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life – only to take it up again. <sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.' <sup>19</sup> The Jews who heard these words were again divided. <sup>20</sup> Many of them said, 'He is demon-possessed and raving mad. Why listen to him?' <sup>21</sup> But others said, 'These are not the sayings of a man possessed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?'

#### CHILDREN'S SONG - WHO IS THIS MAN?

*He's the King of Kings, He's the Lord of Lords.  
He can heal the sick,  
He can calm the storm. He's the Son of God,  
He can save us from sin. And He calls us to follow  
Him.*

Jesus met a man covered in disease. Knew he  
needed to be clean.

Jesus just touched him, the disease was gone.  
Only God can do that! Who is this man?

Jesus and his friends caught in a storm. Lookin'  
like they're gonna drown.

Jesus yelled: "QUIET!" and the storm was calm.  
Only God can do that! Who is this man?

Jesus on a cross was crucified.  
Darkness covered all the land. After three days  
Jesus rose again. Only God can do that! Who is  
this man?

*Yes, He calls us to follow Him. Are you gonna  
follow Him?*

*Words © Paul Sheely, Emu Music. Song CCLI#: 2447584. CCL License No. 616262. CCL Streaming License No. 324811.*

#### BOOK OF THE MONTH - EXTRAORDINARY HOSPITALITY (FOR ORDINARY PEOPLE)

A new book by Carolyn Lacy, seven ways in which we can reflect God's character in the way we welcome others into our homes and into our lives, and so point people ultimately to Christ. This practical and realistic book explores how to make generous hospitality part of everyday life without becoming exhausted and overburdened. A great resource as we begin to be able to open up our homes and lives more. £6 a copy, speak to Carrie for more information. (See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cP5ztL2iZuk> for more).

#### SERMON: JOHN 10:1-21 – BEWARE THE ANTI-SHEPHERDS

Do you think of yourself as a sheep? This "I am the Good Shepherd" passage is like a parable, one that positions us as sheep in a flock, following either a Good or a Bad Shepherd **1). BEWARE THE ANTI-SHEPHERDS.** This teaching targets the Pharisees (1,6) and the wider crowds who were deeply divided in their opinions about Jesus (19-21). Jesus warns those who were false spiritual shepherds and those who may be deceived by them, risking being led away from Jesus the true Shepherd. The Old Testament uses

shepherd imagery positively and negatively. Ultimately, God must become our Shepherd, or we will die. **2).** **ONLY FOLLOW THE GOOD SHEPHERD'S VOICE.** Christianity is not easy, but it is uncomplicated. It is as simple as obeying and following the voice of Jesus. Our response to Jesus matters. Follow the lowly Shepherd, who faced death for you. Follow him through the gate that leads to a new life. Follow him to the cross, where God planned to deal with your sin and need. Are you still a wandering "lost sheep"? You must follow him. Do not follow any other guide, for only the Good Shepherd gives life to the full.

#### WHEN I SURVEY

When I survey the wondrous cross  
on which the Prince of glory died,  
my richest gain I count as loss,  
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
save in the cross of Christ my God;  
all the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See from his head, his hands, his feet,  
sorrow and love flow mingled down:

did e'er such love and sorrow meet?  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were an offering far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all!

*Isaac Watts (1674-1748). Recorded by the High Free Church  
Praise Group, Stornoway. CCL License No. 616262.  
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#### SHARING IN COMMUNION (PRAYER OF CONFESSION, FOLLOWED BY A DECLARATION OF FAITH).

#### PSALM 72:17-19 (SCOTTISH PSALTER)

His name for ever shall endure;  
last like the sun it shall:  
Men shall be blessed in him, and blessed  
all nations shall him call.

Now blessèd be the LORD our God,  
the God of Israel,  
For he alone doth wondrous works,

in glory that excel.

And blessèd be his glorious name  
to all eternity:  
The whole earth let his glory fill.  
Amen, so let it be.

*The Scottish Psalter, 1650.*

#### BENEDICTION

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**SUNDAY AT SIX – in-person and on our YOUTUBE CHANNEL at 6 PM tonight.**  
**HEBREWS 4:1-13 – GOD'S REST FOR A TIRED CITY.**

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#### CONGRATULATIONS

We thank God for the safe arrival of **Miriam Ruth**, a new granddaughter for Sandy and Ruth Finlay, born on 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Congratulations to Miriam's parents, Mairi and Samuel de la Haye and siblings Will and Elspeth.

**COMMUNION:** We will share in communion at the 11 am service today. The bread and wine for communion is prepared in individual servings and is placed in each pew from the outset of the service for the convenient use of communicants. This will prevent the need to pass common plates and cups around the building. If you require gluten-free bread, we suggest you bring your own. All those who know and love Jesus Christ including visitors from other churches are welcome to take part in communion. Contact the minister or any elder if you wish to discuss your faith in Jesus or wish to become a member in this local church.

## CHURCH UPDATE – ARRANGEMENTS IN COVID PROTECTION LEVEL 1

Congregational singing is now permitted indoors. Please use a face-covering indoors (unless exempt or leading part of the service). 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. We must keep a record of attendance for 21 days. During June and July 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

**Wednesday 16<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.

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>** - Our final **Ladies' Bible Study** this term will be an overview of 1 Peter, a chance to share what we have learnt while studying it and time to pray together. Meeting on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June at 10.30 am and 7.45 pm, hopefully in person if the weather allows. The morning group venue will meet in Kathleen Fraser's garden (29 West Heather Gardens) and the evening study will meet in Anna Macritchie's garden (26 Mackay Road). Contact Carrie for details: [carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org](mailto:carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org) or 07583 498782.

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup>** - We meet online on Zoom at 11 am for 30 minutes of prayer and Bible reading. Usual log on.

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> - Guys Group Social:** A social event is planned at the CYC 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.

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>** - Check the Sunday School Facebook group for details of a family get-together in Whin Park.

The next **Deacons' Court** is on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, at 7.30 pm.

An end of term **Family Service** and **Sunday School Prize Giving** is planned for 11 am on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June.

**Explore:** Copies of *Explore* daily bible reading notes are available (July-September, £3).

The **Guys Group** will resume on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> August. 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). For our next gathering read pages 31-45. The books cost £9. Pop a marked envelope in the offering plate or send directly to the treasurer.

**Prayer:** We pray for our **young people and their families** as we head towards summer. Pray that we would all keep God in the centre of life and prioritise spending rich time with God and his people. We pray for the church plant at **Merkinch** and all our global mission partners, including **India Village Ministries**. The **Faith Mission** team are sharing the gospel in Rogart, Sutherland, this weekend.

**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.