



Welcome to the Free North

a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland

A GUIDE TO SUNDAY WORSHIP 11 am – Sunday 27th June 2021

Sunday services are at 11 am & at 6 pm, both online & in-person. Contact our minister, **Rev Angus MacRae**, on: (01463) 832616; Mobile: 07506 006459; Email: angusmacrae1967@gmail.com. You can contact **Carrie Marlow**, our **Women's Pastoral Worker**, on: carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org or 07583 498782.

There is no need to book for in-person worship as we have capacity for a large attendance. Please subscribe to our YouTube channel to follow live services: www.youtube.com/c/FreeNorthChurchInverness. Highland Region is in Covid Protection Tier Level 1, allowing us to sing songs of praise during services. The Scottish Government advises that face coverings be worn for worship indoors, unless exempt from this requirement.

TODAY IS A FAMILY SERVICE, WITH PARTICIPATION FROM OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP (FROM ISAIAH 2:3,5)

ALL: Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths. Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.

SONG: PSALM 134(B) (SING PSALMS VERSION)

All you servants of the LORD, praise the LORD!
You who minister by night
In the temple of the LORD,
All you servants of the LORD, praise the LORD!

In his temple lift your hands! Praise the LORD!
May the LORD, who made the world,
Both the heavens and the earth,
From mount Zion send you blessing.
Praise the LORD!

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PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

Today we pray for sister churches at **Knockbain** (Rev Farquhar Renwick) and **Govan** (Rev Norman Mackay).

WHO WROTE THE BIBLE?

SONG: 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,
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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BIBLE READING: ACTS 9:1-19 (ICB)

¹ In Jerusalem Saul was still trying to frighten the followers of the Lord by saying he would kill them. So he went to the high priest ² and asked him to write letters to the synagogues in the city of Damascus. Saul wanted the high priest to give him the authority to find people in Damascus who were followers of Christ's Way. If he found any there, men or women, he would arrest them and bring them back to Jerusalem. ³ So Saul went to Damascus. As he came near the city, a bright light from heaven suddenly flashed around him. ⁴ Saul fell to the ground. He heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul! Why are you doing things against me?" ⁵ Saul said, "Who are you, Lord?" The voice answered, "I am Jesus. I am the One you are trying to hurt. ⁶ Get up now and go into the city. Someone there will tell you what you must do." ⁷ The men traveling with Saul stood there, but they said nothing. They heard the voice, but they saw no one. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground. He opened his eyes, but he could not see. So the men with Saul took his hand and led him into Damascus. ⁹ For three days Saul could not see, and he did not eat or drink. ¹⁰ There was a follower of Jesus in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord spoke to Ananias in a vision, "Ananias!" Ananias answered, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹ The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight Street. Find the house of Judas. Ask for a man named Saul from the city of Tarsus. He is there now, praying. ¹² Saul has seen a vision. In it a man named Ananias comes to him and lays his hands on him. Then he sees again." ¹³ But Ananias answered, "Lord, many people have told me about this man and the terrible things he did to your people in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ Now he has come here to Damascus. The leading priests have given him the power to arrest everyone who worships you." ¹⁵ But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! I have chosen Saul for an important work. He must tell about me to non-Jews, to kings, and to the people of Israel. ¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for my name." ¹⁷ So Ananias went to the house of Judas. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus sent me. He is the one you saw on the road on your way here. He sent me so that you can see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ Immediately, something that looked like fish scales fell from Saul's eyes. He was able to see again! Then Saul got up and was baptized. ¹⁹ After eating some food, his strength returned.

PICTURES BY THE NURSERY

PAUL IN JERUSALEM (PETER, BARNABAS, AND PAUL)

WHERE PAUL WENT

SONG: JESUS LOVE IS VERY WONDERFUL

Jesus love is very wonderful, (x 3)
O wonderful love.
*It's so high you can't get over it,
It's so low you can't get under it,
It's so wide you can't get round it,
O wonderful love.*

Jesus loves me and he died for me, (x 3)
O wonderful love.
*It's so high you can't get over it,
It's so low you can't get under it,
It's so wide you can't get round it,
O wonderful love.*

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PAUL AND HIS FRIENDS (SILAS, TIMOTHY, AND DR. LUKE)

BIBLE READING: ACTS 16:13-15 (ICB) (LYDIA'S STORY)

¹³ On the Sabbath day we went outside the city gate to the river. There we thought we would find a special place for prayer. Some women had gathered there, so we sat down and talked with them. ¹⁴ There was a woman named Lydia from the city of Thyatira. Her job was selling purple cloth. She worshiped the true God. The Lord opened her mind to pay attention to what Paul was saying. ¹⁵ She and all the people in her house were baptized. Then Lydia invited us to her home. She said, "If you think I am truly a believer in the Lord, then come stay in my house." And she persuaded us to stay with her.

THE JAILER (VIDEO ON PAUL'S TRAVELS)

BIBLE READING: 2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-12 (ICB)

¹ God, with his mercy, gave us this work to do. So we don't give up. ² But we have turned away from secret and shameful ways. We use no trickery, and we do not change the teaching of God. We teach the truth plainly. This is how we show everyone who we are. And this is how they can know in their hearts what kind of people we are before God. ³ The Good News that we preach may be hidden. But it is hidden only to those who are lost. ⁴ The devil who rules this world has blinded the minds of those who do not believe. They cannot see the light of the Good News—the Good News about the glory of Christ, who is exactly like God. ⁵ We do not preach about ourselves. But we preach that Jesus Christ is Lord; and we preach that we are your servants for Jesus. ⁶ God once said, "Let the light shine out of the darkness!" And this is the same God who made his light shine in our hearts. He gave us light by letting us know the glory of God that is in the face of Christ. ⁷ We have this treasure from God. But we are only like clay jars that hold the treasure. This shows that this great power is from God, not from us. ⁸ We have troubles all around us, but we are not defeated. We do not know what to do, but we do not give up. ⁹ We are persecuted, but God does not leave us. We are hurt sometimes, but we are not destroyed. ¹⁰ We carry the death of Jesus in our own bodies, so that the life of Jesus can also be seen in our bodies. ¹¹ We are alive, but for Jesus we are always in danger of death. This is so that the life of Jesus can be seen in our bodies that die. ¹² So death is working in us, but life is working in you.

SONG: IN CHRIST ALONE

In Christ alone my hope is found;
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - Who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied;
For every sin on Him was laid,
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine -
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man;
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

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BENEDICTION

**SUNDAY AT SIX – live in-person and on our YOUTUBE CHANNEL at 6 PM tonight.
HEBREWS 5:1-10 – THE ONLY PRIEST FOR OUR CITY.**

CHURCH UPDATE – ARRANGEMENTS IN COVID PROTECTION LEVEL 1

We are glad a growing number feel able to attend in-person worship services. We are also thankful to resume congregational singing. Please use a face-covering during indoor services (unless exempt or leading part of

the service). Our sanctuary seats 80 downstairs (plus any children under 5). The upstairs gallery is available on Sunday mornings (apart from the front row) providing seating for an additional 100. The hall has capacity for 40, with space for 20 in the fellowship area. **Sunday School and Creche meets in the main church hall.** We encourage conversations but do take care to avoid blocking doors and exits and ensure social distancing between different households. During the summer 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.

DIARY, NEWS & PRAYER

Congratulations to Angus and Cathie Margaret Morrison on the safe arrival of their lovely new grandson, Myles, born to Dianne and Andrew. Also we send congratulations to Anne Thompson, whose grandson Conall was baptised last Sunday at St Columba's Free Church in Edinburgh.

Ladies' Book Group: Over the summer we're going to be reading *Extraordinary Hospitality (For Ordinary People)* and getting together to chat about the questions at the end of each chapter. This week we'll be looking at chapter one. Arrange to meet up with someone to chat about it over coffee or come along on Tuesday 29th at 7.30 pm (on Zoom) or on Friday 2nd at 10.30 am (at Carrie's - 6 Iona Road). Get in touch with Carrie for more information (carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org or 07583 498782).

Copies of **Explore** daily bible reading notes are now available (for July-September, suggested donation £3). This is a great help to get into the habit of reading and apply God's word every day.

Monday: The Inverness, Lochaber and Ross Presbytery meets (online) at 7 pm.

Wednesday: Join us in-person at the church and online on YouTube for **Church Night** at 7.30 pm. Please try to attend in person if you can, or to pray at home at the same time, as our church and city needs prayer. Our Friday morning prayer time is taking a break over the Summer. When it resumes it will be held at 9 am.

Tuesday 6th July – Our Elders meet in person at 7.30 pm the church (with an option to join on Zoom) for prayer, fellowship and equipping. Please read *“Church Elders”*, chapter 4, pages 57-69.

Our next **Communion** is on Sunday 11th July. Get in touch with the minister or an elder if you wish to profess faith in Jesus, or wish to become a member in our church family by transfer from another church. The Kirk Session have agreed to celebrate communion more frequently, usually on the second Sundays of February, April, June, July, September, and November.

The June/July edition of the **Record** is now available for subscribers and can be collected from the church.

The **Guys Group** will resume on Monday 23rd August. We are to reading *“Disciplines of a Godly Man”* by Kent Hughes. 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.

A leaflet promoting the **“Open Door Project”** to create a drop-in and Christian bookshop is available today.

Supporting our work: Thank you to all who give generously to maintain and develop the work of our church. You can donate at our website (PayPal logo), in the offering plate, or directly to our “Free North Church” bank account (82-65-18, a/c number 40246657). Direct enquiries to Mrs Barbara Macphail: treasurer@freenorthchurch.org. Donations can be for our general fund, a specific project (such as the Women's Worker, or Live Stream project) or earmarked for our local Congregational Development Fund.