



# Welcome to the Free North

a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland

## A GUIDE TO SUNDAY WORSHIP 11 am – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July 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](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.

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](https://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.

### WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP (FROM ISAIAH 61:1-3a)

*MINISTER: The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour and the day of vengeance of our God,*

*ALL: To comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion –  
to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,  
the oil of joy instead of mourning,  
and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. Amen.*

### SONG: PSALM 100(1):1-5 (SCOTTISH PSALTER, LM)

All people that on earth do dwell,  
Sing to the LORD with cheerful voice.  
Him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell,  
Come ye before him and rejoice.

Know that the LORD is God indeed;  
Without our aid he did us make:  
We are his flock, he doth us feed,  
And for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise,  
Approach with joy his courts unto:  
Praise, laud, and bless his name always,  
For it is seemly so to do.

For why? the LORD our God is good,  
His mercy is for ever sure;  
His truth at all times firmly stood,  
And shall from age to age endure.

### PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

Today we pray for sister churches at **Leith (Edinburgh Elder Memorial)** (minister Rev Colin MacLeod) and **Bonar Bridge & Lairg** in Sutherland (newly inducted minister Rev Ben Fiddian).

### GETTING TO KNOW OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

An interview with our elder John MacAulay and his wife Mairi.

## HYMN: PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of  
creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and  
salvation!  
Come, all who hear,  
Brothers and sisters, draw near,  
Praise Him in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, above all things so mightily  
reigning;  
Keeping us safe at his side, and so gently  
sustaining:  
Have you not seen  
All you have needed has been  
Met by His gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who shall prosper our work  
and defend us;  
Surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend  
us.

Ponder anew  
What the Almighty can do,  
Who with His love will befriend us.

Praise to the Lord, who, when darkness and sin  
are abounding,  
Who, when the godless are rampant, all goodness  
confounding,  
breaks forth as light,  
scatters the terrors of night,  
saints with His mercy surrounding!

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore  
Him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with  
praises before Him!  
Let the 'Amen!'  
sound from His people again -  
gladly we praise and adore Him!

*Words: Joachim Neander (1650-80). Version © Praise Trust.  
CCL License No. 616262. CCL Streaming License No. 324811.*

## SUMMER BIOGRAPHIES

This summer we want to highlight some brilliant biographies for young and old. From Nazi concentration camps to Premier League Football, whether in Edinburgh or an African jungle, these books encourage and inspire with the stories of brothers and sisters who testify to God's faithfulness in every circumstance. There's a separate information sheet with information about the books and prices. Get in touch with Carrie for more information ([carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org](mailto:carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org) or 07583 498782).

### BIBLE READING: JOHN 11:1-21 (ANNE MUIRDEN)

<sup>1</sup> Now a man named Lazarus was ill. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay ill, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) <sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent word to Jesus, 'Lord, the one you love is ill.' <sup>4</sup> When he heard this, Jesus said, 'This illness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it.' <sup>5</sup> Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. <sup>6</sup> So when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed where he was two more days, <sup>7</sup> and then he said to his disciples, 'Let us go back to Judea.' <sup>8</sup> 'But Rabbi,' they said, 'a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?' <sup>9</sup> Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the day-time will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. <sup>10</sup> It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light.' <sup>11</sup> After he had said this, he went on to tell them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.' <sup>12</sup> His disciples replied, 'Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.' <sup>13</sup> Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. <sup>14</sup> So then he told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead, <sup>15</sup> and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' <sup>16</sup> Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.' <sup>17</sup> On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, <sup>19</sup> and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup> 'Lord,' Martha said to Jesus, 'if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.'

## SERMON: JOHN 11:1-16 – FALLING ASLEEP, OUR NEW NAME FOR DEATH

John 11 reveals Jesus' loving intentions for suffering and death. He is the resurrection and the life, our only hope in the face of death, as we shall see over several weeks. **1) A NEW NAME FOR DEATH (FALLING ASLEEP).** There was panic in Bethany. Lazarus was very sick and Jesus was 100 miles away. But he delayed travelling to help for two days, making it certain Lazarus would be long dead before he arrived. Why? This was not cruelty but a special kindness. The family in Bethany, following their suffering, would learn a new and wonderful name for death. Believers need no longer fear death. It is now a "falling asleep" in Jesus, to be followed by waking up in a renewed world of glory. **2) A NEW UNDERSTANDING OF SUFFERING (FOR GLORY, LOVE, & TRUST).** Jesus wants us to know three things about suffering. (1). EVEN IN SUFFERING, GOD'S GLORY IS REVEALED (3-4). Jesus did not rush to heal his friend. Instead, Jesus delayed his help. He permitted suffering to go on until Lazarus was far beyond mere human help. But then God's glory was powerfully revealed, despite the suffering. (2). EVEN IN SUFFERING, GOD'S LOVE FOR BELIEVERS IS REVEALED (5-11). Jesus motive was always his perfect love for Martha, Mary and Lazarus (see verses 5 and 36). Trust in God's loving providence over your life. Learn from this passage to love with a godly passion both our loving God and the people we are sent to serve. Our hearts must flow with God's love for lost, blind and hurting ones. (3). EVEN IN SUFFERING, GOD'S HELP FOR UNBELIEVERS IS REVEALED (12-16). The purpose of John's gospel is evangelistic – it is written to win us as believers in Jesus. We find eternal life as we believe the gospel and depend on Jesus. What trouble or fears in your life seems to hard or impossible to entrust to God? At that point, you must trust God today. Jesus says in verse 40, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"

### SONG: PSALM 130 - FROM THE DEPTHS OF SHAME AND SORROW (VERSION BY EMMA TURL)

From the depths of shame and sorrow,  
from my guilt and my despair,  
LORD, I cry to you for mercy—  
be attentive to my prayer.

*All my joy is in your presence,  
all my hope is in your word;  
more than watchmen wait for morning  
waits my soul for you, O LORD!*

If our sins you still remembered,  
how could anyone draw near?  
But with you there is forgiveness,  
so we come with reverent fear.

With the LORD is love unfailing—  
let his people hope in him!  
With our God is full redemption,  
full atonement for our sin.

*Dim Ond Iesu / Here is Love. Author: Emma Turl © Praise Trust. CCL License 616262. CCL Streaming License 324811.*

### BENEDICTION

---

**SUNDAY AT SIX – live in-person and on our YOUTUBE CHANNEL at 6 PM tonight.  
HEBREWS 5:11 – 6:12 – A MATURE FAITH, OR AN APOSTATE 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

**Quarterly Congregational Newsletter:** Thanks to all who contributed items and who produced the quarterly newsletter for us. Please pick up your copy today.

**Joan & Stewart Vant** have moved to a new address, 5 Porterfield Bank, Inverness, IV2 3HL. Their phone number remains unchanged. We wish them every happiness in their new home.

**Sympathy:** We keep in our prayers Elsa and Robert McKenzie and all their family, following the passing of Elsa's brother Sandy McLean last Wednesday at Cameron House. Sandy was in his 93<sup>rd</sup> year. The funeral will be held from Dulnain Bridge Parish Kirk, in Strathspey.

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July** – Our Elders meet in person at 7.00 pm the church (with an option to join on Zoom) for prayer, fellowship and equipping. Please read “*Church Elders*”, chapter 4, pages 57-69.

**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.

**Ladies' Book Group:** Over the summer we are 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 two. Arrange to meet up with someone to chat about it over coffee or come along on Zoom on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm or met up in-person on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> at 10.30 am (at Ann MacRae's home, 19 Mingary Crescent, IV2 6FQ, off Eilean Donan 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.

We will share in **Communion** next 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**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.