



# Welcome to the Free North

a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland

## A GUIDE TO SUNDAY WORSHIP 11 am – Sunday 11<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 (80 downstairs plus children under 5, 100 in the balcony, 40 in the hall, 20 in the fellowship area). Please subscribe to our YouTube channel to follow live services: [www.youtube.com/c/FreeNorthChurchInverness](http://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 1 PETER 1:3-4,8-9)

*MINISTER: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.*

*ALL: Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. Amen.*

### THINE BE THE GLORY

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son!  
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won;  
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave-clothes,  
where Thy body lay.

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son!  
Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won!*

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;  
lovingly He greets us, scatters fear and gloom;  
let the church with gladness hymns of triumph

sing,  
for her Lord now liveth,  
death has lost its sting:

No more we doubt Thee, glorious Prince of life;  
life is nought without Thee: aid us in our strife;  
make us more than conquerors,  
through thy deathless love;  
bring us safe through Jordan  
to Thy home above.

*Words: Edmond L Budry (1854-1932), Trans R B Hoyle (1875-1939).*

*Recorded at the EMW Summer Conference, Aberystwyth, in 2018. CCL License No. 616262. CCL Streaming License No. 324811.*

### PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

Today we pray for sister churches at **Glasgow Govanhill** (Rev Kenny Boyd) and **Fortrose** (Rev Rory Stott).

### BIBLE READING: JOHN 11:17-44

<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.’ <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, ‘Your brother will rise again.’ <sup>24</sup> Martha answered, ‘I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.’ <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; <sup>26</sup> and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?’ <sup>27</sup> ‘Yes, Lord,’ she replied, ‘I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.’ <sup>28</sup> After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. ‘The Teacher is here,’ she said, ‘and is asking for you.’ <sup>29</sup> When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup> When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there. <sup>32</sup> When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’ <sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. <sup>34</sup> ‘Where have you laid him?’ he asked. ‘Come and see, Lord,’ they replied. <sup>35</sup> Jesus wept. <sup>36</sup> Then the Jews said, ‘See how he loved him!’ <sup>37</sup> But some of them said, ‘Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?’ <sup>38</sup> Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. <sup>39</sup> ‘Take away the stone,’ he said. ‘But, Lord,’ said Martha, the sister of the dead man, ‘by this time there is a bad odour, for he has been there four days.’ <sup>40</sup> Then Jesus said, ‘Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?’ <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, ‘Father, I thank you that you have heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.’ <sup>43</sup> When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come out!’ <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, ‘Take off the grave clothes and let him go.’

#### SERMON: JOHN 11:17-44 – YES LORD, I BELIEVE

John’s gospel contains wonderful reports of Jesus’ words and actions. They demand the response of faith. Few events are greater than John 11 and the words of Martha, sister of Lazarus, a dead man raised to life by Jesus. **1) YES LORD, I BELIEVE YOU ARE THE RESURRECTION.** People came to mourn with Martha and Mary, as their social duty required. But where was their absent friend, Jesus? Why did he not hurry to help Lazarus, as he sank towards death? By delaying his help and allowing a time of sorrow, the Lord Jesus draws out Martha’s faith. In every sense that matters, the “absent” Jesus really was there with them through their trials and grief. Then Jesus taught Martha more about himself, so she could confidently declare Jesus to be “the resurrection”. Our sufferings can give us credibility, as we speak to others of help we receive from God. Jesus strengthened the faith of the family in Bethany, showing them his role as the resurrection and the source of eternal life. **2) YES LORD, I BELIEVE YOU ARE THE MESSIAH.** Jesus draws out Martha’s faith so she can declare Jesus to be not just the resurrection but her Messiah and her Lord. In this gospel there are greater and greater declarations of faith, like a tide coming in steadily. Martha’s faith is the highpoint halfway through the gospel. The gospel will close with a climactic highpoint, as the Apostle Thomas abandons all his doubts to fall down and worship the risen Jesus as “my Lord and my God”. **3) YES LORD, I BELIEVE IN YOUR PAIN AND YOUR PASSION.** Jesus was deeply emotional and showed compassion for the emotions of others, including Martha’s sister Mary. Rather than teaching Mary, he wept with her at her brother’s tomb. Jesus’ tears and emotional turmoil expressed his pain, anger and fury against sin and death. Christian theology teaches that God is “impassable”, unmoved in the sense that he is never manipulated or made the unwilling victim of external forces. But God is also supremely feeling, he is impassioned with the passions of God. Our human ability to feel joy or anger exists because we are created in the image of the personal God, the one who feels as only God can feel, who is impassioned in his glorious unchanging being. The God-man Jesus feels our pain, sympathising as another human does, and he grieves over us as only God can grieve. On the road to Calvary, the “Jesus of the Scars” paused at a tomb to raise his corrupting friend from the dead, and to roar against all darkness and sin. Just a few days later Jesus would triumph over darkness and death at the cross and his own empty tomb. But do you believe it? What difference with the pains and passion of Jesus the Messiah make to your life today?

### SONG: THE GOODNESS OF JESUS

Come, you weary heart, now to Jesus.  
Come, you anxious soul now and see.  
There is perfect love and comfort in your tears;  
Rest here in His wondrous peace.

*Oh, the Goodness, the Goodness of Jesus.  
Satisfied, he is all that I need.  
May it be, come what may, that I rest all my days,  
In the Goodness of Jesus.*

Come, find what this world cannot offer;  
Come, and find your joy here complete.

Taste the living water, never thirst again;  
Rest here in His wondrous peace.

Come, and find your hope now in Jesus;  
He is all he said he would be.  
Grace is overflowing from the Saviour's heart;  
Rest here in His wondrous peace.

*Words by Fiona Aghajanian, Harrison Druery, Michael  
Farren, Jaywan Maxwell, Jonny Robinson, & Rich  
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### PRAYER OF CONFESSION, DECLARATION OF FAITH & COMMUNION

1 Corinthians 11. Silent prayer of Confession, followed by a declaration of faith.

*Minister: Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.*

*ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.*

*Minister: Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed for us.*

*ALL: Therefore let us keep the feast.*

### SHARING IN COMMUNION

#### PSALM 116:13-19 (SCOTTISH PSALTER)

I'll of salvation take the cup,  
on GOD's name will I call:  
I'll pay my vows now to the LORD  
before his people all.

Dear in GOD's sight is his saints' death.  
Thy servant, LORD, am I;  
Thy servant sure, thine handmaid's son:  
my bands thou didst untie.

Thank-off'rings I to thee will give,  
and on GOD's name will call.  
I'll pay my vows now to the LORD  
before his people all;

Within the courts of GOD's own house,  
within the midst of thee,  
O city of Jerusalem.  
Praise to the LORD give ye.

### BENEDICTION

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**SUNDAY AT SIX – live in-person and  
on our YOUTUBE CHANNEL at 6 PM tonight.**

**HEBREWS 6:4–8 – AN UNSAVABLE CITY?**

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### CHURCH STAFF HOLIDAYS

Carrie, our women's worker, is away on holiday for the next two weeks. She will respond to messages when she returns. Angus, our minister, is taking a week off from Tuesday. Please contact Brian Cameron the Session Clerk or any elder in a pastoral emergency. 07 707 540 391 / [bdcameron77@googlemail.com](mailto:bdcameron77@googlemail.com).

## MEAL TRAIN FOR THE MACLEOD FAMILY

We would like to invite you to provide meals for Eilidh and Seumas Macleod and their 2 little girls, Norah and Miriam, when the arrival of the latest addition to their family is expected in a couple of weeks' time. This can be done through the **Meal Train app** or you can contact **Anna MacRitchie** 07 724 761 629 or **Carrie Marlow** 07 583 498 782 if you have any difficulties. The link to the Meal Train app is <https://mealtrain.com/ve72q6>. Eilidh has asked for meals to be provided from **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 6<sup>th</sup> August**, and if possible, please avoid lamb or fish dishes! Thank you for your help and prayers.

## 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.

## DIARY, NEWS & PRAYER

**COMMUNION:** We share in communion at the 11 am service today. The bread and wine 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. If you require gluten-free bread, we suggest you bring your own. All who know and love Jesus Christ including visitors from other churches are welcome to take part. Contact the minister if you wish to become a member in this local church.

**Monday-Friday:** FCYC Connect groups run virtual Camps online all this week for three different age groups.

**Wednesday:** Join us in-person at the church and online on YouTube for **Church Night** at 7.30 pm, conducted this week by Sandy Finlay. Please try to attend in person if you can, or to pray at home at the same time.

**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 three. Arrange to meet up with someone to chat about it over coffee or come along on Zoom on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm (contact Effie Finlay for details). The following week meet up in-person on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> at 10.30 am (at Vina Campbell's home, 14 Blackpark Terrace) to discuss chapter 4.

Copies of *Explore* daily bible reading notes are now available (for July-September, suggested donation £3).

**Joan & Stewart Vant** have moved to a new address, 5 Porterfield Bank, Inverness, IV2 3HL.

**Beth Crookes** and her family express their thanks for the gift from the Sunday School and church family.

**Next Sunday 18th:** Our services will be conducted by Rev John Wilson and Rev John Murdo MacDonald.

**Prayer:** Keep in your prayers all those away on holiday and all those in need of renewal and refreshing. Pray for our children and young people, and for the FCYC Connect events replacing youth camps this week. Remember Eilidh and Seumas Macleod as they wait for the birth of their child. Pray for those providing preaching cover while the minister is away. Lift up to God the sick and the suffering. Annette MacLean hopes to move through to Aberdeen this week to stay with her daughter Mairi for some time.

**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](mailto: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.