



Welcome to the Free North

a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland

A GUIDE TO SUNDAY WORSHIP 11 am – Sunday 25th 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. You can contact **Carrie Marlow**, our **Women's Pastoral Worker**, on: carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org or 07583 498782.

The whole of Scotland is in Covid Protection Tier Level 0, so congregational singing is permitted. For now, the Scottish Government continues to advise the use of face coverings indoors, unless exempt from this requirement. There is no need to book for in-person worship. We have capacity at 2m social distancing for a large attendance (80 downstairs plus children under 5, 100 in the balcony, 40 in the hall, 20 in the fellowship area). The Government now permit 1m distancing. Please subscribe to our YouTube channel to follow live services: www.youtube.com/c/FreeNorthChurchInverness.

WELCOME

Welcome to the Free North, particularly if you are with us for the first time. Our services today are taken by the minister of the congregation, Rev Angus MacRae. He will introduce a new summer series teaching from the book of Exodus. Our women's pastoral worker returns from holiday tomorrow.

CALL TO WORSHIP (FROM 1 PETER 5:8-11)

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

PSALM 89:15-18

O greatly blessed the people are
the joyful sound that know;
In brightness of thy face, O LORD,
they ever on shall go.

They in thy name shall all the day
rejoice exceedingly;
And in thy righteousness shall they
exalted be on high.

Because the glory of their strength
doth only stand in thee;
And in thy favour shall our horn
and pow'r exalted be.

For GOD is our defence; and he
to us doth safety bring:
The Holy One of Israel
is our almighty King.

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PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

Today we pray for sister churches at **Dumbarton** (vacant and cared for by Rev Andy Longwe), **Central Charge in Prince Edward Island** (Rev Peter Aiken), and **Barvas in Lewis** (Rev Murdo Campbell).

TALK TO CHILDREN

BIBLE READING: EXODUS 1:1-22 (FRANCES CAMPBELL)

¹ These are the names of the sons of Israel who went to Egypt with Jacob, each with his family: ² Reuben, Simeon, Levi and Judah; ³ Issachar, Zebulun and Benjamin; ⁴ Dan and Naphtali; Gad and Asher. ⁵ The descendants of Jacob numbered seventy in all; Joseph was already in Egypt. ⁶ Now Joseph and all his brothers and all that generation died, ⁷ but the Israelites were exceedingly fruitful; they multiplied greatly, increased in numbers and became so numerous that the land was filled with them. ⁸ Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. ⁹ 'Look,' he said to his people, 'the Israelites have become far too numerous for us. ¹⁰ Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country.' ¹¹ So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labour, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. ¹² But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites ¹³ and worked them ruthlessly. ¹⁴ They made their lives bitter with harsh labour in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labour, the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly. ¹⁵ The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, ¹⁶ 'When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live.' ¹⁷ The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. ¹⁸ Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, 'Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?' ¹⁹ The midwives answered Pharaoh, 'Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive.' ²⁰ So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. ²¹ And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own. ²² Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: 'Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live.'

SONG: KING OF KINGS, MAJESTY

King of Kings, Majesty
God of heaven living in me
Gentle Saviour, closest friend,
Strong deliverer, Beginning and end;
All within me falls At Your throne.

*Your majesty, I can but bow,
I lay my all before You now.
In royal robes I don't deserve,
I live to serve Your majesty.*

Earth and heaven worship You,
Love eternal, faithful and true;
Who bought the nations, Ransomed souls,
Brought this sinner near to Your throne.
All within me cries out in praise.

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SERMON: EXODUS 1 – NOW THESE ARE THE NAMES – THE GOD WHO REMEMBERS YOUR NAME.

Names matter in *Exodus*, the Bible book we will learn from over this summer. The Hebrew language title of the book and opening words of the text are literally "And these are the names..." In coming weeks we will hear much more about God's meaningful names, the name of his people Israel, and the names of individuals through whom God worked, such as Moses and his family. In Exodus chapter 1 we will notice three things. **1). SPECIAL NAMES IN GOD'S BIG STORY.** The book begins with a list of the tribal names of Israel. These names relate to God's people, a people who matter to God. We can read the entire big story of the Bible using an easily remembered framework of four "P"s. **God's People; God's Presence; God's Place; and God's Purpose.** God does not speak at all in Exodus 1, but he shows his care and faithfully keeps his centuries old promises. After 400 years of silence, God was determined to act to free his precious people, to bring them to a new place where they can worship in his presence and live for his holy purposes. **2). A NAMELESS ENEMY.** The Egyptian Pharaoh threatened the survival of Israel and ordered the destruction of every male

Hebrew child. The Bible records his cruel words and attitudes, but the text completely ignores this Pharaoh's name! He is just another nameless manifestation of the Serpent, the Devil, who wishes to attack the Seed of the Woman (see Genesis 3:15). In the end all such enemies will come to realise it is impossible to fight God and win. The living God is in sovereign control, ruling even over the plans of nameless and faceless enemies.

3). SOME FAITHFUL NAMES REMEMBERED BY GOD. While the text ignores the name of the King, two obscure midwives, Shiphrah and Puah, have their names immortalised in scripture. God notices the little people who believe, and he remembers their names. The hero of Exodus is not Moses, nor his parents, nor even the brave midwives named by the text who saved the lives of countless Hebrew baby boys. God is the hero. Believer in Jesus, your living Lord is the hero who knows you by your name.

SONG: JESUS SHALL REIGN

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does his successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made
and princes throng to crown his head;
his name like incense sweet shall rise
with every morning sacrifice.

People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song;
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where Jesus reigns:
the prisoner leaps to lose his chains,
the weary find eternal rest
and all who suffer want are blessed.

Where he displays his healing power
there Eden's curse prevails no more;
in him the tribes of Adam boast
more blessings than their father lost.

Let every creature rise and bring
distinctive honours to our King,
angels descend with songs again
and earth repeat the long 'Amen!'

*Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), based on Psalm 72.
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BENEDICTION

**SUNDAY AT SIX – live in-person and on our YOUTUBE CHANNEL at 6 PM tonight.
Hebrews 6:13-20. The Gospel for Inverness - Hope and Certainty for Our City.**

CONGRATULATIONS

We welcome **Hugh James Macleod** into our church family. He was born on Wednesday night to Eilidh and Seumas Macleod, a delightful little brother for Norah and Miriam. We praise God for this precious gift.

MEAL TRAIN FOR THE MACLEOD FAMILY

If you would like to provide meals for Eilidh and Seumas and their growing family you can sign up 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 now until **Friday 6th 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. Check out the selection on the resource table at church. An information sheet with information about the books and prices is available. Please get in touch if you need books to be delivered to you.

DIARY, NEWS & PRAYER

Tuesday 27th 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 5, pages 71-83.

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.

Thursday: Road to Recovery, in the fellowship area at 7.30 pm. Details from Martin MacLean.

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 five. Meet up in-person at Carrie's home this Tuesday 27th at 10.30 am (6 Iona Road). Carrie will also host a Zoom discussion on Thursday 29th at 7.30 pm. Get in touch for log-on details.

Our elders (the Kirk Session) will meet next on Tuesday 3rd August, at 7.30 pm.

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.

Fellowship times on Zoom: We hope to arrange some online fellowships, about once a month, particularly for the benefit of those who cannot come to in-person fellowship events. Philip Rose from OM will join us at 7.30 pm on Sunday 29th August.

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.

Prayer: Give thanks for children born in recent weeks to families in our congregation, particularly Hugh James, born last week to Eilidh and Seumas Macleod. Lift up to God the housebound and the sick and the suffering including Annette MacLean. Keep in your prayers all those away on holiday and all those in need of renewal and refreshing. Pray for new believers and those young in the faith. Pray for our children and young people, and for all who have received baptism as a sign of God's covenant of faithfulness and love. The Keswick Convention continues for two more weeks. A convention service was broadcast on BBC Radio 4 this morning.

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.