



Welcome to the Free North

a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland

A GUIDE TO SUNDAY WORSHIP 11 am – Sunday 8th August 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.

WELCOME

Welcome to the Free North, particularly if you are with us for the first time or exploring the Christian faith. We would love to help you become part of the Christian family. Today our minister, Rev Angus MacRae, will teach from the Bible books of *Exodus* and *Hebrews*.

There is no need to book a place to attend our services. The majority of Covid-19 social distancing rules will end in Scotland tomorrow. However, we plan to retain a small area at the back of the church on both sides where 2-meter distancing will remain for any who wish to be seated in such an area. Social distancing will not be required in any other seated areas. For the present the Government advises the use of face coverings indoors, unless exempt. We hope to resume serving refreshments in the hall after morning service in the coming weeks. Subscribe to our YouTube channel at: www.youtube.com/c/FreeNorthChurchInverness.

CALL TO WORSHIP (FROM PSALM 105:1-4)

Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done.

Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts.

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Amen.

HYMN: BEHOLD OUR GOD

Who has held the oceans in His hands?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at His voice
All creation rises to rejoice.

*Behold our God,
seated on His throne.
Come, let us adore Him.
Behold our King,
nothing can compare,
Come, let us adore Him!*

*Music & Words by Jonathan Baird, Meghan Baird,
Ryan Baird, & Stephen Altrogge © 2011 Sovereign
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Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of His words?
Who can teach the One who knows all things?
Who can fathom all His wondrous deeds?
Behold our God...

Who has felt the nails upon His hands,
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal, humbled to the grave,
Jesus, Saviour, risen now to reign!
Behold our God...

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PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

Today we pray for sister churches in **Stornoway** (Revs James MacIver & Kenny I Macleod), and **Campbeltown** (vacant, cared for by Rev David Parker).

BIBLE READING: EXODUS 3:1-22 (BRIAN CAMERON)

¹ Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. ³ So Moses thought, 'I will go over and see this strange sight – why the bush does not burn up.' ⁴ When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, 'Moses! Moses!' And Moses said, 'Here I am.' ⁵ 'Do not come any closer,' God said. 'Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.' ⁶ Then he said, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God. ⁷ The Lord said, 'I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey – the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ⁹ And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰ So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.' ¹¹ But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?' ¹² And God said, 'I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.' ¹³ Moses said to God, 'Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you," and they ask me, "What is his name?" Then what shall I tell them?' ¹⁴ God said to Moses, 'I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: "I am has sent me to you."' ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, 'Say to the Israelites, "The Lord, the God of your fathers – the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob – has sent me to you." 'This is my name for ever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation. ¹⁶ 'Go, assemble the elders of Israel and say to them, "The Lord, the God of your fathers – the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – appeared to me and said: I have watched over you and have seen what has been done to you in Egypt. ¹⁷ And I have promised to bring you up out of your misery in Egypt into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites – a land flowing with milk and honey." ¹⁸ 'The elders of Israel will listen to you. Then you and the elders are to go to the king of Egypt and say to him, "The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. Let us take a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the Lord our God." ¹⁹ But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless a mighty hand compels him. ²⁰ So I will stretch out my hand and strike the Egyptians with all the wonders that I will perform among them. After that, he will let you go. ²¹ 'And I will make the Egyptians favourably disposed towards this people, so that when you leave you will not go empty-handed. ²² Every woman is to ask her neighbour and any woman living in her house for articles of silver and gold and for clothing, which you will put on your sons and daughters. And so you will plunder the Egyptians.'

MEETING MEMBERS OF THE LEADERSHIP TEAM: DONNIE MACLEOD

SING PSALMS: PSALM 135:13-21 (8787)

LORD, your name endures for ever;
your renown is ever great.

For the LORD sustains his servants
and his folk will vindicate.

But the idols of the nations,
made of silver and of gold,

Are by human hands created
with a hammer or a mould.

Mouths they have, but speak they cannot;
eyes they have, but cannot see.

Ears they have, but hear they cannot;
in their mouths no breath can be.

Those who make them will be like them;
those who trust them are the same.
Praise the LORD, O house of Israel,
Aaron's house, exalt his name.

Praise the LORD, O house of Levi;
you who fear him, praise the LORD!
Praise the LORD who dwells in Zion,
in Jerus'lem praise the LORD!
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SERMON: EXODUS 3 – TELL THEM MY NAME.

Exodus is a Book about NAMES, especially the NAME OF GOD, the LORD. What matters is not what we think or feel God should be like, but what God says about himself. **1). GOD IS WHO HE SAYS HE IS.** God attracts Moses' attention with a SIGN, the bush on fire but never burning away. The sign is followed up by God's WORDS of explanation. He reveals himself as the 'Angel of the LORD', as the God who speaks. **2). GOD IS AN AWESOME GOD.** Moses is told how we should all respond to the awe-inspiring and holy God. He is on fire in his purity and holiness, but he makes a way for us to approach. He is high above us, but in Jesus Christ he draws close to us. This is quite unlike the false gods of false religions. **3). GOD IS THE FAITHFUL RESCUING GOD.** Exodus tells the story of a rescue. But God rescues his people from something and for something. He has future plans and purposes for his people. Then and now, we should react to God's power and rescue with trust and obedience, living as his people in his presence and purposes. The place for us to be is not in a holy land, but in genuine fellowship with His church. **4). GOD IS KNOWN BY HIS NAME.** The personal name of the God who makes a covenant has a short version (the "LORD" / "Yahweh") and a long version ("I AM WHO I AM"). But our "Lord" Jesus called himself "I am" and accepted worship. God is one, God is the LORD, and God is Jesus. He is greater and more awe-inspiring than we realise, but at the cross he draws near to take our guilt and sin away. It is in Jesus that God fully reveals his name, his glory and his love.

HYMN: TO GOD BE THE GLORY

To God be the glory! Great things he has
done;
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord! Let the earth
hear His voice!*

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord! Let the
people rejoice!*

*O Come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory; Great things He has
done.*

O perfect redemption, The purchase of blood!
To every believer the promise of God:
The vilest offender who truly believes,
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Great things He has taught us, great things He
has done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the
Son:

But purer and higher and greater will be
our joy and our wonder, when Jesus we see!

Words: Frances J Van Alstyne (1820-1915).

BENEDICTION

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

Hebrews 8:1-13. The Gospel for Inverness – High Priest of the New Covenant.

SUMMER BIOGRAPHIES

This summer we want to highlight some brilliant biographies for young and old, books that 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 prices is available. Please get in touch if you need books to be delivered to you.

DIARY, NEWS & PRAYER

The August edition of the Free Church of Scotland's *Record* magazine is available to collect for subscribers.

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. We wish to support those who take part in midweek worship from their homes. This week we will try a **Zoom prayer time** immediately after the YouTube stream stops, for any who wish to share in prayer with others from their homes. Please watch the service on YouTube at 7.30 and then use the usual Zoom details to have fellowship and prayer online with others around 8 pm.

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

Ladies' Book Group: Over the summer we have been reading *Extraordinary Hospitality* and getting together to chat about the questions at the end of each chapter. This week we come to the concluding chapter seven. We offer two opportunities to meet up in-person this Thursday 12th - **10.30 am** (at Carrie Marlow's home, 6 Iona Road) and later the same day at **7.30 pm** (at Fiona Cameron's home, 12 Culduthel Mains Crescent).

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). 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.

Next Sunday 15th - Rev John Murdo MacDonald will conduct our morning service at 11 am. Our minister will be away taking a baptism service at Dingwall Free Church. Angus will be back for our evening service.

Youth Fellowship should be resuming in the CYC on Sunday evenings from 22nd August.

Mason Holmes will be baptised by his grandfather, Rev Colin MacLeod, on Sunday 29th August. Colin was minister of this congregation before moving to his present congregation in Wester Ross. We keep Mason and all his family in our prayers along with all the children in our congregation.

Zoom Fellowship: Join us on Zoom for news from our mission partners in **OM**. **Philip Rose** will join us online at 7.30 pm on Sunday 29th August.

Prayer: We pray for young folk, parents and staff returning to school next week. Pray for God to be at work in our schools and among the young, and for any who are bullied or discouraged because of their faith. Pray for the witness of our congregation and for churches around the nation, as we resume activities, fellowships and attempt to reach out to others with the good news. Pray for those who are unwell, struggling in body or mind, and for all experiencing spiritual struggles and social anxiety after 18 months of Covid restrictions.

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.