



Welcome to the Free North

a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland

A GUIDE TO SUNDAY WORSHIP 11 am – Sunday 15th 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. We usually stand for our praise songs and Psalms and remain seated for the majority of the service. Younger children will be invited to leave for age-appropriate activities part-way through morning service. Today we welcome Rev John Murdo MacDonald as our guest speaker at 11 am. Our minister is away at Dingwall Free Church this morning to conduct a baptism service, but he will be with us tonight to conduct Sunday at Six.

There is no need to book a place to attend our services. Most social distancing rules have ended in Scotland. However, a small area at the back on both sides of the church is reserved for those who prefer to be seated in a 2-meter social distancing area. We no longer require a record of contact details from those attending. The Government advises the use of face coverings indoors, unless exempt, or a child under age 12. We resume serving refreshments in the church hall after morning service from today. For live online worship subscribe to our YouTube channel at: www.youtube.com/c/FreeNorthChurchInverness.

CALL TO WORSHIP (FROM PSALM 65:1-4)

Praise awaits you our God in Zion.

To You our vows will be fulfilled,

You Who answer prayer.

To You all people will come.

When we were overwhelmed by sins

You forgave our transgressions.

Blessed are those You choose,

And bring near to live in Your courts.

We are filled with the good things of Your house

Of Your Holy Temple. Amen.

HYMN: HOLY SPIRIT, LIVING BREATH OF GOD

Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God,
Breathe new life into my willing soul.
Bring the presence of the risen Lord
to renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause Your Word to come alive in me;
Give me faith for what I cannot see;

Give me passion for Your purity;
Holy Spirit breathe new life in me.

Holy Spirit come abide within,
May Your joy be seen in all I do.

Love enough to cover every sin
In each thought and deed and attitude:
Kindness to the greatest and the least,
Gentleness that sows the path of peace.
Turn my strivings into works of grace;
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.

Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,
Giving life to all that God has made.

Show Your power once again on earth
Cause Your church to hunger for Your ways.
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise;
Lead us on the road of sacrifice,
That in unity the face of Christ
May be clear for all the world to see.

Words & Music by Stuart Townend
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PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

Today we pray for sister churches in **Nairn** (Rev Murdo MacLeod), and **Glasgow City** (Rev Dr Colin Dow, soon to be joined by Rev Duncan Murchison, with responsibility for the **Helensburgh** Church Plant).

TALK TO CHILDREN

KINTSUGI is a Japanese art form repairing broken things with gold. The Lord Jesus repairs with love.

BIBLE READING: ROMANS 1:18-32

¹⁸The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. ²¹For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. ²⁴Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator – who is for ever praised. Amen. ²⁶Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. ²⁷In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error. ²⁸Furthermore, just as they did not think it worth while to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. ²⁹They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, ³⁰slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; ³¹they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. ³²Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practise them.

PSALM 19:1-8 (SCOTTISH PSALTER, CM)

The heav'ns God's glory do declare,
the skies his hand-works preach:
Day utters speech to day, and night
to night doth knowledge teach.

There is no speech nor tongue to which
their voice doth not extend:
Their line is gone through all the earth,
their words to the world's end.

In them he set the sun a tent;
Who, bridegroom-like, forth goes
From's chamber, as a strong man doth
to run his race rejoice.

From heav'n's end is his going forth,
circling to th' end again;
And there is nothing from his heat
that hidden doth remain.

GOD's law is perfect, and converts
the soul in sin that lies:
GOD's testimony is most sure,
and makes the simple wise.

The statutes of the LORD are right,
and do rejoice the heart:
The LORD's command is pure, and doth
light to the eyes impart.

SERMON: ROMANS 1
GOSPEL OPPORTUNITIES IN AN UNGODLY WORLD

PRAYER

HYMN: WE HAVE A GOSPEL TO PROCLAIM

We have a gospel to proclaim,
Good news for all throughout the earth;
The gospel of a Saviour's name:
We sing His glory, tell His worth.

Tell of His birth at Bethlehem,
Not in a royal house or hall
But in a stable dark and dim:
The Word made flesh, a light for all.

Tell of His death at Calvary,
Hated by those He came to save;
In lonely suffering on the cross
For all He loved His life He gave.

Tell of that glorious Easter morn:
Empty the tomb, for He was free.
He broke the power of death and hell
That we might share His victory.

Tell of His reign at God's right hand,
By all creation glorified;
He sends His Spirit on His Church
To live for Him, the Lamb who died.

Now we rejoice to name Him King:
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
This gospel message we proclaim:
We sing His glory, tell His worth.

Words: Edward J Burns (born 1938)
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BENEDICTION

SUNDAY AT SIX – live in-person and on our YOUTUBE CHANNEL at 6 PM tonight.
Hebrews 9:1-10. The Gospel for Inverness – What Can Wash away My Sin?

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 again offer 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 pm and then use the usual Zoom details to have fellowship and prayer online with others from around 8 pm.

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

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.

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.

Praise Night: Join us for an evening of praise from 6.30 pm on Friday 3rd September.

Communion: We will next share in Communion on Sunday 5th September.

Week of Prayer: Times of prayer will be arranged from Monday 6th to Friday 10th September, as we lift up the spiritual needs of our city and nation to God.

Prayer: We pray for John Murdo MacDonald and our minister conducting our services today, and for Angus Carrie and our elders in their pastoral care. Pray for Chris Davidson and his team church planting in the Merkinch, as Chris takes a funeral in the coming days. We pray for young folk, parents and staff returning to school this week. Pray for God to be at work in our schools and among the young. Pray for any who are bullied or discouraged because of their faith. Pray for the witness of our congregation and for churches all around the nation, as we resume activities and attempt to reach out to others with the good news. Pray for those who are unwell, struggling in body or mind or receiving treatments. Pray for all experiencing spiritual struggles and social anxiety after 18 months of Covid restrictions. Pray for those in the church family who are retired, that they will see the God's blessing on each day as he continues to use their time and talents for his glory. Pray for those with struggle with loneliness and singleness, that they would find daily comfort and joy in the Lord Jesus. Our mission partner Philip Amos works with the Jewish community in London. He will be with us in person at the end of September.

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.