



Welcome to the Free North

a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland

A GUIDE TO SUNDAY WORSHIP 11 am – Sunday 26th September 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. Refreshments are served in the hall after morning and evening services. Younger children will be invited to leave for age-appropriate activities part-way through morning service. There is no need to book a place to attend. There is a small social distancing zone at the back. Please use a face covering indoors, unless exempt. Subscribe to our YouTube channel for live worship: www.youtube.com/c/FreeNorthChurchInverness.

Tonight at 6 pm we welcome **Philip Amos** from London and his colleague **Misha Vayshengolts**, based in Israel. Philip and Misha both share the good news of Jesus Christ with Jewish people and others they meet, serving with the **International Mission to Jewish People** (formerly known as CWI). Please join us tonight as we support our mission partners in their work.

CALL TO WORSHIP (PSALM 121:1-4)

Minister: I lift up my eyes to the mountains— where does my help come from?

ALL: My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

*Minister: He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber;
indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.*

ALL: My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. Amen.

SING PSALMS 95:1-8 (11.11.11.11.)

O come, let us joyfully sing to the LORD;
To the Rock of salvation let us raise our voice.
Let us come before him expressing our thanks;
Let us with loud singing praise him and rejoice.

The LORD is the great God, King over all gods.
The earth's deepest places he holds in his hand;

The heights of the mountains belong to the LORD.
The oceans are his, and he formed the dry land.

Come, let us bow humbly and worship the LORD;
Let us kneel before him, our Maker, in prayer.
For we are his people and he is our God;
He shepherds and feeds us in his loving care.

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PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

Today we pray for sister churches in **Sleat & Strath** (minister, Rev Gordon Matheson), **Raasay** (vacant) and **Lochgilphead** (cared for by Rev Rodger Crooks).

TALK TO CHILDREN

BIBLE READING: EXODUS 6:28 – 7:13

²⁸ Now when the Lord spoke to Moses in Egypt, ²⁹ he said to him, 'I am the Lord. Tell Pharaoh king of Egypt everything I tell you.' ³⁰ But Moses said to the Lord, 'Since I speak with faltering lips, why would Pharaoh listen to me?' ^{7:1} Then the Lord said to Moses, 'See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron will be your prophet. ² You are to say everything I command you, and your brother Aaron is to tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go out of his country. ³ But I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and though I multiply my signs and wonders in Egypt, ⁴ he will not listen to you. Then I will lay my hand on Egypt and with mighty acts of judgment I will bring out my divisions, my people the Israelites. ⁵ And the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord when I stretch out my hand against Egypt and bring the Israelites out of it.' ⁶ Moses and Aaron did just as the Lord commanded them. ⁷ Moses was eighty years old and Aaron eighty-three when they spoke to Pharaoh. ⁸ The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, ⁹ 'When Pharaoh says to you, "Perform a miracle," then say to Aaron, "Take your staff and throw it down before Pharaoh," and it will become a snake.' ¹⁰ So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did just as the Lord commanded. Aaron threw his staff down in front of Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a snake. ¹¹ Pharaoh then summoned the wise men and sorcerers, and the Egyptian magicians also did the same things by their secret arts: ¹² each one threw down his staff and it became a snake. But Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs. ¹³ Yet Pharaoh's heart became hard and he would not listen to them, just as the Lord had said.

HYMN: O FOR A CLOSER WALK

O for a closer walk with God,
a constant, heavenly calm;
a light to shine upon the road
that leads me to the Lamb!

Where is the blessing that I knew
when first I saw the Lord?
Where is the soul-refreshing view
of Jesus and his word?

What peaceful hours I once enjoyed!
How sweet their memory still!

But they have left an aching void
the world can never fill.

The dearest idol I have known-
however much adored-
help me to tear it from your throne
and worship you as Lord.

So shall my walk be close with God,
my mind serene and calm;
so purer light shall mark the road
that leads me to the Lamb.

Words: William Cowper (1731-1800). Praise Trust version. CCL License 616262. CCL Streaming 324811.

SERMON ON EXODUS 7 – GOD'S MAN MEETS SATAN'S MAN

Signs and wonders play an important role in the Exodus story, just as they would much later when Jesus came to perform the true and final 'Exodus' that delivered God's people from sin and death. God confirmed Moses as his man, called to free Israel, and to lead them into God's land and a life of covenant obedience. This passage introduces 11 signs (or 1 sign with 10 plagues acting as further signs) **1). WORDS TO STRENGTHEN GOD'S MAN.** Moses would act in the place of God towards Pharaoh, Egypt and Israel, and Aaron would act as his prophet. The signs were designed to warn, to create faith, and to glorify and vindicate God. **2). SIGNS TO WARN SATAN'S MAN.** There are only two possible responses to God's words and signs of power. Faith, or a further hardening of our hearts in unbelief. Sadly, Pharaoh set out on a course of heart-hardening that destroyed him and his army, bringing judgement from heaven on all the false gods of Egypt. Pharaoh will discover, as the signs/plagues unfold, there is a terrible penalty for ignoring and rejecting God. We too need to know that heaven and hell are at stake when we choose heed God's man or Satan's man. If we reject our Creator, the Lord of Life, ultimately we shall bring down on ourselves a worse uncreation – worse than the destruction, darkness and death pictured the last three terrible plagues on Egypt.

SONG: O CHURCH ARISE

O church, arise and put your armour on;
Hear the call of Christ our captain;
For now the weak can say that they are strong
In the strength that God has given.
With shield of faith and belt of truth
We'll stand against the devil's lies;
An army bold whose battle cry is "Love!"
Reaching out to those in darkness.

Our call to war, to love the captive soul,
But to rage against the captor;
And with the sword that makes the wounded
whole
We will fight with faith and valour.
When faced with trials on ev'ry side,
We know the outcome is secure,
And Christ will have the prize for which He died—
An inheritance of nations.

Come, see the cross where love and mercy meet,
As the Son of God is stricken;
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet,
For the Conqueror has risen!
And as the stone is rolled away,
And Christ emerges from the grave,
This vict'ry march continues till the day
Ev'ry eye and heart shall see Him.

So Spirit, come, put strength in ev'ry stride,
Give grace for ev'ry hurdle,
That we may run with faith to win the prize
Of a servant good and faithful.
As saints of old still line the way,
Retelling triumphs of His grace,
We hear their calls and hunger for the day
When, with Christ, we stand in glory.

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BENEDICTION

**SUNDAY AT SIX – live in-person and on our YOUTUBE CHANNEL at 6 PM tonight.
PHILIP AMOS AND MISHA VAYSHENGOLTS (FROM LONDON AND ISRAEL).
SERVING WITH INTERNATIONAL MISSION TO JEWISH PEOPLE (FORMERLY CWI).**

DIARY, NEWS & PRAYER

We send our best wishes to **Iain MacRae** who starts training as a Police Constable this Monday at Tulliallan. Congratulations also to **Donnie and Catherine MacLeod** on the safe arrival of a new granddaughter, **Molly**, a lovely blessing for Joanna and Tom.

On Sunday mornings there is a **creche** and **Sunday School** in the hall. A **Youth Fellowship** meets in the CYC building at 6 pm. **Tea and coffee are served in the hall after both our Sunday services.**

Monday: The **Presbytery**, linking over 20 local churches in our region, meets in Greyfriars FC at 7 pm.

Tuesday: The **Ladies' Bible Study** meets this Tuesday at 10.30 am (at Brenda MacLeod's home, 81 Holm Park) and at 7.45 pm (at Mairi MacAulay's home, Willowglen, 31 Harris Road) to study Revelation 2:8-11. Copies of a study guide are available. Contact Carrie on carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org or 07583 498782 for information, to get a study guide delivered or if you need a lift. Future dates are 12th & 26th Oct., 9th & 23rd Nov. and 7th December.

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 also wish to support those who take part from their homes. They may join on **Zoom** immediately after the live YouTube stream stops.

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

Friday Online Prayer: A 30-minute Prayer Time on the usual Zoom codes, starting at 9 am.

Saturday: The Scottish Women's Bible Convention is taking place in person (in Edinburgh) and online. This year there will be teaching from the book of Esther, looking at God's remarkable providence. More details and tickets are available at scottishwomensbibleconvention.com. Speak to Carrie if you're interested in gathering with others to watch the livestream.

Saturday: The church **Fellowship Walks** will resume this Saturday at 9 am. The venue is the Aldourie Estate Forestry walk. Aldourie is located between Inverness and Dores about 8 miles from the city. To get to the public car park turn right opposite Aldourie Primary School (follow the Aldourie direction sign) and you will find the car park approximately 200 yards on the left. The walk is around 4.5k and at one part there is steep decline towards Loch Ness, but we would not want to miss the idyllic Aldourie Estate bay and jetty on our walk. Any enquiries to Derek Morrison on 07469 975656 or derekmary@icloud.com.

The **Guys Groups** meet this term on Mondays (4th & 25th Oct.; 8th & 22nd November; and 6th December). We are reading Kent Hughes' *"Disciplines of a Godly Man"*. For 4th October, please read pages 61-74.

September Book of the month - Side by Side by Ed Welch. Everyone needs help sometimes but often we don't feel equipped to help others, or know how to ask for help. *Side by Side* seeks to help us walk with one another in wisdom and love as we share our burdens with one another. It shows us how God can and does work through ordinary Christians in our ordinary relationships and conversations. £7 a copy.

Survey: We wish to survey the congregation to help deliver Home Groups, informal events and Midweek Meetings that best meet our needs and circumstances. It would be very helpful to get your thoughts. You can complete a "Google Form" here: <https://forms.gle/NFPcsUTXHm72zsHq8>. Alternatively, paper copies are available at church, and these can be returned in an envelope through the offering plate.

Edinburgh Theological Seminary run a monthly **Saturday Course** (in person at ETS, online, or in person by link at Knockbain FC). Remaining dates for this session are 9 Oct.; 6 Nov.; 11 Dec.; 15 Jan. 2022; 12 Feb.; 19 March; 23 April. Enrol at ets.ac.uk/saturday-courses-application.

Communion: We will next share in Communion on Sunday 14th November.

Zoom: To request log-on codes see the weekly email update or email Martin at office@freenorthchurch.org.

Helping with Teas and Coffees: It is wonderful to be able to gather for fellowship over tea and coffee after services. There is a sign-up sheet for anyone interested in helping out serving teas.

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.