



# Welcome to the Free North

*a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland*

## A GUIDE TO SUNDAY WORSHIP 11 am – Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October 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.*

### 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 both services. Younger children will be invited to leave for age-appropriate activities part-way through morning service. Please use a face covering indoors, unless exempt. Subscribe to our YouTube channel for live worship: [www.youtube.com/c/FreeNorthChurchInverness](https://www.youtube.com/c/FreeNorthChurchInverness).

We extend our sympathy and love to the Morgan and Cameron families, following the sudden death of Mrs Christine Morgan last Sunday morning. We keep David, Fiona and Brian and family (Rachel, Evan, Holly, Finlay), Wendy and family (Dylan, Rhys, Calvin), Gareth and Andrew in our prayers. A funeral service will be held at the Free North on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am. This will be followed on Tuesday by a short service at 1 pm in Carloway Free Church followed by interment at Dalmore Cemetery in the Isle of Lewis.

### CALL TO WORSHIP (PSALM 103:13-14)

*As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him;  
for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust. Amen.*

### SING PSALMS 84:1-7

How delightful are your dwellings,  
O Almighty LORD, to me!  
For your courts my soul is yearning;  
in your house I long to be.  
Heart and flesh cry out aloud  
for the true and living God.

Even sparrows find their dwelling,  
and the swallow builds a nest  
Near your altar, LORD Almighty,  
where her offspring may have rest.  
Blessed whose home is your abode,  
they are ever praising God.

Blessed are those whose strength is in you,  
those who have a pilgrim's mind.  
Pools from autumn rains refresh them;  
springs in Baca's vale they find.  
Strength increasing, Zionward  
they go on their way to God.

Hear my pray'r, LORD God Almighty,  
and receive the plea I make.  
Listen to me, God of Jacob;  
hear me for your mercy's sake.  
Look upon our shield and bring  
favour to your chosen king.

## PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

Today we pray for sister churches in **Lochcarron & Applecross** (minister, Rev Marcos Florit), and **Dumfries** (vacant, cared for by Rev Kenny MacLeod).

### HYMN: JESUS STRONG AND KIND

Jesus said that if I thirst,  
I should come to Him.

No one else can satisfy,

I should come to Him.

Jesus said if I am weak,

I should come to Him.

No one else can be my strength,

I should come to Him.

*For the Lord is good and faithful.*

*He will keep us day and night.*

*We can always run to Jesus.*

*Jesus, strong and kind.*

Jesus said that if I fear,

I should come to Him

No one else can be my shield.

I should come to him.

*For the Lord ...*

Jesus said if I am lost,

He will come to me.

And He showed me on that cross.

He will come to me.

*For the Lord...*

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### BIBLE READING: EXODUS 11:1 - 12:5

<sup>1</sup> Now the Lord said to Moses, 'I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. After that, he will let you go from here, and when he does, he will drive you out completely. <sup>2</sup> Tell the people that men and women alike are to ask their neighbours for articles of silver and gold.' <sup>3</sup> (The Lord made the Egyptians favourably disposed towards the people, and Moses himself was highly regarded in Egypt by Pharaoh's officials and by the people.) <sup>4</sup> So Moses said, 'This is what the Lord says: "About midnight I will go throughout Egypt. <sup>5</sup> Every firstborn son in Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sits on the throne, to the firstborn son of the female slave, who is at her hand mill, and all the firstborn of the cattle as well. <sup>6</sup> There will be loud wailing throughout Egypt – worse than there has ever been or ever will be again. <sup>7</sup> But among the Israelites not a dog will bark at any person or animal." Then you will know that the Lord makes a distinction between Egypt and Israel. <sup>8</sup> All these officials of yours will come to me, bowing down before me and saying, "Go, you and all the people who follow you!" After that I will leave.' Then Moses, hot with anger, left Pharaoh. <sup>9</sup> The Lord had said to Moses, 'Pharaoh will refuse to listen to you – so that my wonders may be multiplied in Egypt.' <sup>10</sup> Moses and Aaron performed all these wonders before Pharaoh, but the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let the Israelites go out of his country. <sup>12:1</sup> The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in Egypt, <sup>2</sup> 'This month is to be for you the first month, the first month of your year. <sup>3</sup> Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household. <sup>4</sup> If any household is too small for a whole lamb, they must share one with their nearest neighbour, having taken into account the number of people there are. You are to determine the amount of lamb needed in accordance with what each person will eat. <sup>5</sup> The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats.

### SERMON ON EXODUS 11-12 – THE LAMB'S PEOPLE

Exodus is about freedom. God was patient and did not deliver his people from Egypt with one mighty knockout blow in round 1. But the long-drawn-out story of the plagues prompts many questions. Why did God wait so long? Why wait for 430 years to free Israel? What explains Pharaoh's hard-heartedness, risking even his own eldest son's life? Are we comfortable with a picture of God as a judge who sends disaster and death on his enemies? **1). GOD MAKES HIS IDENTITY AND JUSTICE CLEAR.** God alone gets to be the judge. He was not harsh on Egypt, but incredibly patient, giving them many opportunities for repentance. But at

last God alone is seen as the source of true salvation and freedom. **2). GOD CREATES A DISTINCT AND SECURE COMMUNITY.** Exodus 11-13 sets the scene for community life for God's people in the centuries to come. We are to share a community identity who know we belong to God. God was not being soft on Israel. He found a just way to save them, and to mark them with the blood of the Passover lamb as his property. The freest people on earth are not those who make up their own rules or identity but who are moved from slavery to sin and come under the leadership of Jesus, God's Lamb. If you have not done it already, join the Lamb's people. For only Jesus sets prisoners free as he takes away the sins of the world.

**HYMN: PRAISE, MY SOUL (ADAPTED FROM PSALM 103)**

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
To His feet thy tribute bring.  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
Who like me His praise should sing?  
Praise Him, praise Him,  
praise Him, praise Him,  
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favour  
To His people in distress.  
Praise Him still the same for ever,  
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.  
Praise Him, praise Him,  
praise Him, praise Him,  
Praise Him for His faithfulness.

Father-like He tends and spares us;  
Well our feeble frame He knows.  
In His hand He gently bears us,  
Rescues us from all our foes.  
Praise Him, praise Him,  
praise Him, praise Him,  
Widely as His mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore Him;  
Ye behold Him face to face;  
Sun and moon, bow down before Him,  
Dwellers all in time and space.  
Praise Him, praise Him,  
praise Him, praise Him,  
Praise with us the God of grace.

*Words Henry F Lyte (1793-1847). CCL License 616262. CCL Streaming 324811.*

**BENEDICTION**

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**SUNDAY AT SIX – live in-person and on our YOUTUBE CHANNEL at 6 PM tonight.  
Hebrews 11:11-16. The Gospel for Inverness – A Fruitful Faith.**

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**DIARY, NEWS & PRAYER**

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

**Monday:** A funeral for the late Christine Morgan is at the Free North (and on YouTube) at 11.30 am.

**Tuesday:** The **Ladies' Bible Study** meets this Tuesday at 10.30 am (at Effie Finlay's home, 62 Leachkin Avenue) and at 7.45 pm (at Carrie Marlow's home, 6 Iona Road) to study Revelation 2:12-17. Copies of a study guide are available. Contact Carrie on [carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org](mailto:carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org) or 07583 498782 for information, to get a study guide delivered or if you need a lift. Future dates are 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.

**Record:** The Free Church *Record* magazine for October is now available.

**Blythswood Shoebox Appeal:** As in previous years we plan to fill gift boxes for men, women and teens (13-14-year-old boys & girls). We need TOILETRIES (especially shampoo and deodorants), CLOTHING (especially gloves and socks for all, underwear for men, women and girls, T-shirts, etc.), HOUSEHOLD GOODS for the adults and TOYS/TREATS for the boys and girls) and SWEETS (dated for no earlier than April 22 and no chocolate). Please give donations as soon as possible to **Anne Muirden, Peggy MacLennan or Joan Vant**. We aim to fill the boxes on Tuesday 26 and Thursday 28 October. Further details nearer the time.

**Coffee@Dobbies** is at 10.30am on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October. Come along, ladies, for an opportunity to chat and support each other. (Jane MacLeod, 01463 237310).

The **Kirk Session** has been postponed until Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October, in-person at the church, at 7.30 pm.

Due to folk being away and a bereavement the last **Guys Groups** evening session is postponed until Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October, 7 pm at the MacRae's home, 19 Mingary Crescent, Ness Castle, IV2 6FQ. We are reading Kent Hughes' "*Disciplines of a Godly Man*". Please read pages 61-74 on *fatherhood*. Future dates are 25<sup>th</sup> Oct.; 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> November; and 6<sup>th</sup> December.

The next church **Fellowship Walk** will be at **Daviot Woods** on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October at 9 am. It is a 3-mile easy going walk. Visit <https://forestryandland.gov.scot/visit/daviot-wood> for directions to the forestry car park. To suit everyone the plan is to alternate walks between moderate terrain and a slightly hillier gradient. Any enquiries to Derek Morrison on 07469 975656 or [derekmary@icloud.com](mailto:derekmary@icloud.com).

**Communion:** We will next share in Communion on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November. Speak to the minister or an elder if you wish to join the congregation as a church member (by professing your faith in Jesus or by transfer).

**Prayer:** Keep the Morgan and Cameron families, and all who sorrow, in your prayers. Pray that we would all have teachable and open hearts and a growing faith. Pray for unity in the Free North, in the Merkinch church plant, and for excellent relationships with folk in our wider community. Ask God to equip us through Angus, the elders and deacons, and Carrie, and through each other, as we serve one another in the body of Christ. Pray for ten new families to be drawn to Christ and the life of the congregation. Pray for a good response to all our efforts to invite people to find out more about Jesus or to come to church to worship with God's people. Pray as we prepare and plan for the UK wide Passion for Life Mission in 2022.

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

The **Free Church of Scotland Offices** in Edinburgh currently have vacancies for a **Finance Assistant** and for a **Youth Camps Administrator**. See [freechurch.org](http://freechurch.org) for details.

**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.