



Welcome to the Free North

a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland

A GUIDE TO SUNDAY WORSHIP 11 am – Sunday 17th 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. Our Women's Pastoral Worker **Carrie Marlow** is on holiday this week.

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP (ACTS 4:29-31)

'Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.' After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. Amen.

O WORSHIP THE KING

O worship the King,
all glorious above,
O gratefully sing
His power and His love;
Our Shield and Defender,
the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendour,
and girded with praise!

O tell of His might!
O sing of His grace,
Whose robe is the light,
whose canopy space!
His chariots of wrath
the deep thunder clouds form,
And dark is His path
on the wings of the storm.

The earth with its store
of wonders untold,
Almighty, your power

has founded of old;
Established it fast
by a changeless decree,
And round it has cast,
like a mantle, the sea.

Frail children of dust,
and feeble as frail,
In you do we trust,
nor find you to fail;
Your mercies how tender,
how firm to the end,
Our Maker, Defender,
Redeemer, and Friend.

O measureless Might!
Ineffable Love!
While angels delight
to praise you above,
your ransomed creation,
with glory ablaze,

with true adoration
shall sing to your praise!

Robert Grant (1779-1838). Version by Praise Trust ©
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PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

Today we pray for sister churches in **Partick Crow Road / Glasgow City** (minister, Rev Colin Dow),
and **Inverness Greyfriars** (minister, Rev Dr Malcolm MacLean).

FOCUS ON SERVING – THE CRÈCHE

THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Thomas Ken (1637-1711). Melody – The Old Hundredth.

BIBLE READING: EXODUS 13:17 - 14:14

¹⁷ When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them on the road through the Philistine country, though that was shorter. For God said, 'If they face war, they might change their minds and return to Egypt.' ¹⁸ So God led the people around by the desert road towards the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of Egypt ready for battle. ¹⁹ Moses took the bones of Joseph with him because Joseph had made the Israelites swear an oath. He had said, 'God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up with you from this place.' ²⁰ After leaving Sukkoth they camped at Etham on the edge of the desert. ²¹ By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. ²² Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people. ^{14:1} Then the Lord said to Moses, ² 'Tell the Israelites to turn back and camp near Pi Hahiroth, between Migdol and the sea. They are to camp by the sea, directly opposite Baal Zephon. ³ Pharaoh will think, "The Israelites are wandering around the land in confusion, hemmed in by the desert." ⁴ And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord.' So the Israelites did this. ⁵ When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his officials changed their minds about them and said, 'What have we done? We have let the Israelites go and have lost their services!' ⁶ So he had his chariot made ready and took his army with him. ⁷ He took six hundred of the best chariots, along with all the other chariots of Egypt, with officers over all of them. ⁸ The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, so that he pursued the Israelites, who were marching out boldly. ⁹ The Egyptians – all Pharaoh's horses and chariots, horsemen and troops – pursued the Israelites and overtook them as they camped by the sea near Pi Hahiroth, opposite Baal Zephon. ¹⁰ As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the Lord. ¹¹ They said to Moses, 'Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? ¹² Didn't we say to you in Egypt, "Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians"? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!' ¹³ Moses answered the people, 'Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. ¹⁴ The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still.'

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!*

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...

VIDEO: DON CARSON ON ASSURANCE & THE PASSOVER

SERMON ON EXODUS 13-14 – THE GREATEST ESCAPE

Around 2 million people escaped slavery in Egypt at the Exodus. But would the freed nation of Israel remain free or be enslaved again? The story of Exodus reveals all that God did to teach Israel to trust in God for their liberty and security. **1). THE GREATEST ESCAPE.** God did not lead Israel by the shortest route to the promised land. Instead God's glory was revealed by allowing his people to face danger in the Gulf of Aqaba, with the uncrossable sea in front of them and the pursuing army of Pharaoh behind them. Their deliverance through the sea is a signpost to the greatest escape, God's actions to save his people from their sins. The New Testament links the crossing of the Red Sea to baptism and salvation in passages like 1 Corinthians 10. God rescues his people from hostile territory through Jesus. **2). THE GREAT ENEMY IS DEFEATED.** Then and now, God's people are called to stand and see what God has done. Egypt looked mighty, as it oppressed the Israelites. Satan's empire looked victorious as Jesus hung, weak and dying on the cross. But it took Egypt centuries to recover from the defeat that God inflicted on their armies, and the cross has totally defeated the enemy. Super-powers, armies and mighty rulers are no match for Jesus Christ. We know that through the cross, King Jesus has disarmed the powers and authorities that took their stand against him (Colossians 2:15). **3). THE GREAT GOD GETS THE GLORY.** God is glorified by judging his enemies, by keeping his promises and by receiving the praise and worship of his redeemed people. God kept his promises to Abraham after 430 years of waiting in Egypt. In the New Testament, we see Jesus acting with the power and authority God displayed at the Exodus. Our Christian faith sums up the lesson of the Red Sea Crossing for Israel, as expressed in the first question and answer in the Heidelberg Catechism. *What is your only comfort in life and death? That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil.* We rightly feel helpless, but in Christ we have been bought and set free. We now belong to Christ, and he will sweep away all our fears forever.

SING PSALMS 77:13-20 (CM)

O God, most holy are your ways.
What god compares with you?
You are the God of miracles,
whose power the nations view.

You have redeemed your people, Lord,
with your almighty arm;
Jacob's and Joseph's children you
delivered from all harm.

The waters saw you, O my God;
they saw and writhed in pain.
The very depths became convulsed;
the clouds poured down their rain.

The thunder rolled across the skies
as lightning bolts were hurled.
Your thunder in the wind was heard;
your lightning lit the world.

The whole earth trembled then and quaked.
Your path was through the sea.
Your way through mighty waters led;
your footprints none could see.

Your people, like a flock of sheep,
you guided every day;
By Moses' and by Aaron's hand
you led them on the way.

BENEDICTION

**SUNDAY AT SIX – live in-person and on our YOUTUBE CHANNEL at 6 PM tonight.
Hebrews 11:17-19. The Gospel for Inverness: Faith Obeys God - Whatever The Cost.**

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 during term at 6 pm. **Tea and coffee are served in the hall after both our Sunday services.**

Tuesday: Coffee@Dobbies is at 10.30am on the 19th. Come along, ladies, for an opportunity to chat and support each other (Jane MacLeod, 01463 237310).

Tuesday: The Kirk Session meets in-person in the church fellowship area at 7.30 pm.

Wednesday: Join us in-person at the church and online on YouTube for **Church Night** at 7.30 pm, conducted this week by Chris MacLeod. 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.

Blythswood Shoebox Appeal: 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.

The next **Guys Groups** is on Monday 25th 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 25th Oct.; 8th & 22nd November; and 6th December.

The **Ladies' Bible Study** meets on Tuesday 26th at 10.30 am (at Carrie's home, 6 Iona Road) and at 7.45 pm (at Anna MacRitchie's home, 26 MacKay Road) to study Revelation 2:18-29. 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 9th & 23rd Nov. and 7th December.

Monthly Home Groups will resume on Wednesday 27th October at 7.30 pm, meeting for fellowship, prayer and Bible study in five locations (two homes on the South-side, one home on the East and one on the West of the Ness, with one home in the central area of the city). An additional online group will also meet on Zoom for those unable to attend in-person. Groups will also meet on 17th November and 15th December. Further details of locations and how to join a group will follow or contact Archie Fraser or Sandy Finlay.

The next church **Fellowship Walk** will be at **Daviot Woods** on Saturday 30th 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.

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

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

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.