



Welcome to the Free North

a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland

A GUIDE TO SUNDAY WORSHIP 11 am – Sunday 7th November 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 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 archived worship and to listen again at home: www.youtube.com/c/FreeNorthChurchInverness. Our minister is taking the first and last Sundays of this month off. Today we are delighted to welcome Rev Chris Davidson ETS student Mr Alex Ferrier who will lead our services at 11 am and 6 pm. Chris is minister at Merkinch Free Church. Alex's late grandfather, the Rev Hugh M Ferrier, was minister of this church from 1975 to 1990.

EXITING THE BUILDING IN WINTER

From today we plan to keep the main church doors exiting onto Bank Street closed immediately after our services. This is to minimise loss of heat from the building. We ask you to use the exits on either side of the pulpit, which lead to the church hall (for refreshments) and to the Church Lane exit. Those staying to socialise and enjoy refreshments may ultimately exit the building directly from the hall using the hall exit onto Church Street.

CALL TO WORSHIP (ISAIAH 55)

Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.

Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labour on what does not satisfy?

Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare.

Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live. Amen.

SING PSALMS 135:1-6 (8787)

Praise the LORD, all you his servants!
Praise his name with glad accord,
You who serve God in his temple,
in the dwelling of the LORD.

Praise the LORD, for this is fitting.
He is good; his praise proclaim.
Praise the LORD, for it is pleasant
to sing praises to his name.

For the LORD has chosen Jacob
to belong to him alone,
Israël to be his treasure,
set apart to be his own.

For I know the LORD is mighty;
greater than all gods is he.
He is sovereign in the heavens,
on the earth and in the sea.

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PRAYER, KIDS TALK & LORD'S PRAYER

Today we pray for sister churches in **Plockton & Kyle** (minister, Rev Roddie Rankin, cared for by Ken MacDonald while Roddie is unwell), and **Dunblane** (minister, Rev Allan Shearer).

BIBLE READING: JOHN 17

¹ After Jesus said this, he looked towards heaven and prayed: 'Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. ² For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³ Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. ⁶ 'I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸ For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. ⁹ I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. ¹¹ I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. ¹³ 'I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still

in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. ¹⁴ I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. ¹⁵ My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. ²⁰ 'My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one – ²³ I in them and you in me – so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴ 'Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. ²⁵ 'Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.'

SONG: IN CHRIST ALONE

In Christ alone my hope is found;
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - Who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied;
For every sin on Him was laid,
Here in the death of Christ I live.
There in the ground His body lay,

Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine -
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man;
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

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SERMON ON JOHN 17

SING PSALMS 138:1-8 (LM)

I'll praise you, LORD, with all my heart;
Before the gods I'll sing your praise.
I'll bow towards your holy place
And bless your holy name always.

I'll praise you for your faithfulness
And for your cov'nant love, O LORD,
For over all things you have raised
Your holy name and faithful word.

The very day I called to you,
You gave an answer to my plea.
You made me bold within myself;
With new resolve you strengthened me.

O LORD, let all earth's kings give praise,
When from your mouth they hear your word.

Let them extol the ways of God,
For great's the glory of the LORD.

Although the LORD God dwells on high,
The lowly person he protects,
Whereas the proud and haughty one
He knows afar off and rejects.

Although I walk a troubled path,
Your tender care preserves my life.
You raise your hand against my foes;
Your right hand saves me from their strife.

The LORD will certainly fulfil
For me the purpose he commands.
Your love endures for ever, LORD;
Preserve the works of your own hands.

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BENEDICTION

**SUNDAY AT SIX – live in-person and on our YOUTUBE CHANNEL at 6 PM tonight.
LUKE 15:11-32 – UNDERSEVED MERCY. A message from Mr Alex Ferrier (an Edinburgh
Theological Seminary student for the ministry).**

DIARY, NEWS & PRAYER

On Sunday mornings there is a **creche** and a holiday **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.**

Thanks: Many thanks to everyone in the Free North Family for all the love and support shown to us in different ways over the last few weeks following our sudden bereavement. We are so grateful for all the practical help and prayerful support given to all the family. Thank you very much from all of us. *Psalm 46:1 - God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.* Morgan and Cameron Families.

Monday: The **Guys Group** meets on Monday 8th November, online at 10 am, and in person at 7 pm at the MacAulay's home, *Willowglen*, 31 Harris Road. We are reading Kent Hughes' "**Disciplines of a Godly Man**". Please read pages 75-87 on *friendship*. Future dates are 22nd November and 6th December.

Tuesday: The **Ladies' Bible Study** meets on Tuesday at 10.30 am (Catherine MacLeod's, 1 Lodge Park) and at 7.45 pm (Mairi MacAulay's, *Willowglen*, 31 Harris Road) to study Revelation 3:1-6. Copies of a study guide are available. Contact Carrie on carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org or 07583 498782 for information or if you need a lift. Future dates are 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.

Next Sunday: We will begin with a short silence marking **Remembrance Sunday**. The minister will conduct both services, including **Communion** at 11 am. Contact the minister or any elder if you wish to join the congregation as a church member (by professing your faith in Jesus or by transfer from another church).

Harvest Thanksgiving Offering: Each autumn we express our thanks to God for his goodness by remembering those in need. If you wish to do so you may support the Free Church's Disaster and Relief Fund by leaving a marked donation in the offering today or next Sunday.

Visiting the Parish: Speak to Sandy Finlay or Derek Morrison if you would like to help visit homes in the local area, with an outreach magazine and information about our church.

Date for your Diary – A Fun Night with party games, food and fellowship for all ages is being planned for Saturday 11th December. Details to follow.

The next **Monthly Home Group Studies** are planned for 17th November and 15th December.

Plan to join us in praying for Scotland on the Free Kirk's **National Day of Prayer**, Wednesday 24th November.

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

The **Leprosy Mission** Area Fundraising Group wish to thank all who supported our recent Coffee Morning in the Free North Hall. Over £1,200 has been raised which is a great outcome considering the restrictions that have affected us all. If you are interested in buying Christmas cards with a Biblical text, the TLM Trading website is a good source of cards and other gifts (www.tlmtrading.com) or ask Anne Muirden.

The WfM project, 'Hope for the Hurting', is raising funds by selling crafts and gifts. You can visit the WfM stalls at Christmas Markets at Findon Hall, Culbokie (Sat. 20th November, 10.00 – 12.00); North Kessock Hall (Sat. 27th November, 10.00 – 12.30); North Kessock Outdoor Christmas Market – Old Ferry Car Park (Sat. 11th December, 13.00 – 17.00). The Leprosy Mission will also have a sales table on the 27th November.

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.