



# SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2021

**SERVICES ARE AT 11 AM & 6 PM** (online & in-person).

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## WELCOME TO THE FREE NORTH CHURCH, BANK STREET, INVERNESS

Welcome, especially if you are with us for the first time or are taking time to explore the Christian faith. We would love to help you to belong to the Christian family and we offer courses, small groups and resources to help. We usually stand for our praise songs and sit for other items of worship. Refreshments are served in the church 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. Visit and subscribe to our YouTube channel for live worship and to listen again at home: [www.youtube.com/c/FreeNorthChurchInverness](http://www.youtube.com/c/FreeNorthChurchInverness). This morning we give a warm welcome to Rev Kenny MacLeod, from Dowanvale Free Church in Glasgow. Kenny will conduct our morning service and baptise three of his grandchildren, Jude, Miriam and Hugh.

### CALL TO WORSHIP (FROM ISAIAH 9:2)

**The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.**

### PRAISE: PSALM 100(1):1-5

**All people that on earth do dwell,  
Sing to the LORD with cheerful voice.  
Him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell,  
Come ye before him and rejoice.**

**Know that the LORD is God indeed;  
Without our aid he did us make:  
We are his flock, he doth us feed,  
And for his sheep he doth us take.**

**O enter then his gates with praise,  
Approach with joy his courts unto:  
Praise, laud, and bless his name always,  
For it is seemly so to do.**

**For why? the LORD our God is good,  
His mercy is for ever sure;  
His truth at all times firmly stood,  
And shall from age to age endure.**

*(LM) - The Scottish Psalter of 1650.*

### PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

Today we pray for sister churches in **DESABLE, PRNCE EDWARD ISLAND** (minister, Rev Kent Compton) and at **CALLANISH** in Lewis (minister, Rev Malcolm MacDonald).

**BAPTISM** of **JUDE**, son of Chris and Alison MacLeod, and of **MIRIAM & HUGH**, children of Seumas and Eilidh MacLeod, conducted by Rev Kenny MacLeod.

### PRAISE: WHAT CHILD IS THIS

**What Child is this, Who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?**

**This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.**

**Why lies He in such mean estate,  
Where ox and lamb are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear, for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.**

**Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,  
The cross he bore for me, for you.  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.**

**So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
Come peasant, king, to own Him.**

**The King of kings salvation brings,  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.**

**Raise, raise a song on high,  
The virgin sings her lullaby,  
Joy, joy for Christ is born,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.**

*Words - William Dix (1865). Tune: Greensleaves  
(16<sup>th</sup> Century). CCL License 616262. CCL  
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### **BIBLE READING: ACTS 2:1-4 & 36-41**

<sup>1</sup> When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.... <sup>36</sup> "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah." <sup>37</sup> When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" <sup>38</sup> Peter replied, "Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." <sup>40</sup> With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." <sup>41</sup> Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

### **PRAISE: HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to  
Thee.**

**'Holy, holy, holy; merciful and mighty,  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!'**

**Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore  
Thee,  
casting down their golden crowns around  
the glassy sea.**

**Cherubim and seraphim, falling down  
before Thee:  
Which were and are, and evermore shall  
be!**

**Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness  
hide Thee.**

**Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory  
may not see.**

**Only Thou art holy, there is none beside  
Thee,  
perfect in power, in love and purity.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in  
earth and sky and sea.**

**'Holy, holy, holy; merciful and mighty,  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!'**

*Reginald Heber (1783-1826).*

### **SERMON - ACTS 2:1-4 & 36-41 WHAT DOES BAPTISM MEAN TO US?**

PRAISE: SING PSALMS 90:1-2,13-17

'Lord, you have ever been our dwelling  
place.  
Before you made the world of time and  
space,  
Before you made the mountains and the  
earth,  
You are eternal God; you gave them birth.

Return, O LORD! How long will you delay?  
Have mercy on your servants, LORD, we  
pray.

O satisfy us with your love always,  
That we may sing, rejoicing all our days.

In place of our affliction, make us glad;  
Give joy for all the years you made us sad.  
To all your servants may your deeds be  
shown,  
And to their children make your glory  
known.

Now may the favour of Almighty God  
Abide on us—rich blessings of our Lord.  
Establish every work our hands have  
done;

Yes, Lord, for us establish them each one.  
*Words © 2003, Free Church of Scotland.*

BENEDICTION

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**SUNDAY AT SIX – live in-person and on our YOUTUBE CHANNEL at 6 PM.  
LUKE'S ADVENT CALENDAR – ANNOUNCING A KING - LUKE 1:26-38**

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**DIARY, NEWS & PRAYER**

**Tea and coffee are served in the hall after both our Sunday services.** Congratulations to those families making baptism promises this morning for Jude, Miriam and Hugh. The MacLeod family will be using the hall today after coffee-time for a family gathering.

On Sunday mornings there is a **creche** and **Sunday School** in the hall, and a **Youth Fellowship** meets in the evening. Over the winter we will not reopen the main doors onto Bank Street after services to minimise loss of heat. Please use the exits on either side of the pulpit, which lead to the church hall (for refreshments) and to the Church Lane exit.

**Christmas @ the Free North:** Join us at 11 am next Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> for a **Christmas Family Service**. It will be helpful if children with young families sit together in the centre or near the front. Our **Carol Service is on Christmas Eve**, 6.30 pm on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December, followed by mince pies and warm drinks in the hall. Invitation cards are available. Take as many as you can use. We will gather for worship on **New Year's Day** at 11 am.

**FCYC Youth Camps are back for 2022!** For a holiday filled with fun activities, great friendships and helping to build strong disciples visit [freechurchoyouthcamps.org](http://freechurchoyouthcamps.org). Register by January 31<sup>st</sup> for the best chance to secure your first choice of camp.

**Bookstall:** Visit the **Christmas bookstall** in the hall to browse for cards, bibles and books for your own use or as Christmas gifts. We have copies of **Explore Daily Reading Notes** (January to March 2022, £3); **A Better Than Anything Christmas** family devotional (£4); and **The Dawn of Redeeming Grace**, by Sinclair Ferguson (£6). These are on the resource table in the church.

**The Record** magazine is available for December. The magazine was provided free of charge in 2021, and we now encourage readers to subscribe. Current and new subscribers are asked to contribute £24 for a 2022. You can pay with an envelope in the offering with your name and marked for "The Record" (or pay via Paypal through our website with the reference "Record").

## EVENTS THIS WEEK

**Tuesday:** The planned Ladies Bible Studies are postponed until next year, but there is an informal Open House gathering at the Manse (19 Mingary Crescent) this Tuesday from 7.30 pm.

**Wednesday - Monthly Home Groups** meet at 7.30 pm. In person meetings are held in five locations for fellowship, prayer and Bible study. Please pick up a **Study Guide** with details of all the venues. Derek Morrison leads an online group on Zoom for those unable to attend in-person (details on the Study Guide. Contact Derek on 07469 975656 or [derekmary@icloud.com](mailto:derekmary@icloud.com) or use the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89181734588?pwd=bzF6ckE5ZWdyOHJhWnlYQXp2WkhRQT09>.

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

**Friday Online Prayer:** A 30-minute Prayer Time on Zoom from 9 am, using the usual log on.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Coffee@Dobbies** for ladies from 10.30 am on 21st December and 18<sup>th</sup> January (then on the first and third Tuesdays of each month). Please come along, buy your coffee and head to the area to the left of the till for a time of chat as we seek to support each other. Contact Jane if you need help arranging a lift (237310). Jane Macleod still has some marmalade available at £1.50 per 1lb jar, sold in aid of the **Elsie Normington Haven Appeal** (237310). Anyone wishing to donate can leave a clearly marked envelope in the offering plate. Jane thanks everyone for their support.

**Christmas Eve Carol Service**, 6.30 pm on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December.

Join us to start 2022 in worship on **New Year's Day** at 11 am.

**Guys Group** – keep Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January free for a guys curry night.

**New Year Week of Prayer:** As we enter 2022, and with God's mission to our needy City in our hearts, we plan a special week of prayer from 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> January.

**Hope Explored in early 2022:** These days hope feels hard to come by. The news bulletins can add to our levels of stress and anxiety. If you are longing for hope and certainty the Christian faith claims to offer us some real hope. The Bible has a joyful vision of the future based on true events from the past. This changes everything about how we live in the present. Join us for a three-week *Hope Explored* course on Thursday evenings, 7-8 pm, from 20<sup>th</sup> January to 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022. We will watch a film, discuss a question and explore a Bible passage about the Christian hope. Plan to come and why not bring a friend! What is the best future you could ever imagine?

**Prayer topics:** Praise the Lord that Jesus came to earth to save his people. Pray for many to come to know the gospel in this Christmas season. Pray for our children and schools and for families and churches with events and plans potentially disrupted by Covid. Pray that we would increasingly love the Word so that what we hear of Christ would shape our lives. Give thanks for the good gift of our elders and deacons, and our ministers Angus and Chris, and staff members Carrie, Cristi, and Claire, for their faithful service in the Free North and in the Merkinch Church Plant. Pray that we would all stay humble, depending on the grace of Christ each day.

Email [office@freenorthchurch.org](mailto:office@freenorthchurch.org) to request a weekly email update and for Zoom log-on codes.

**Supporting our work:** 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). Enquiries to [treasurer@freenorthchurch.org](mailto:treasurer@freenorthchurch.org). Donations can be designated for our general fund, a specific project (such as the Women's Worker, or Live Stream project) or for our local Congregational Development Fund.