



SUNDAY 2nd JANUARY 2022

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

Minister: **Rev Angus MacRae**. (01463) 832616; Mobile: 07506 006459; Email: angusmacrae1967@gmail.com.

Women's Pastoral Worker: **Carrie Marlow**.
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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 wish you a very happy and blessed New Year 2022.** We would love to help you to belong to the Christian family. We offer courses, small groups and resources to help. In our services we usually stand for our praise songs and sit for other items of worship. We follow all Scottish Government guidance to protect public health, . Please use a face covering indoors, unless exempt, and avoid crowding or blocking exits. Visit and subscribe to our YouTube channel for live worship and to listen again at home: www.youtube.com/c/FreeNorthChurchInverness.

Our guest preachers today are Rev John S Ross & Rev John Murdo MacDonald.

MORNING ORDER OF SERVICE – 2nd JANUARY 2022

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRAISE: OUR GOD, OUR HELP

**Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.**

**Under the shadow of your throne
Your saints have lived secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone,
And our defence is sure.**

**Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting you are God,
To endless years the same.**

**A thousand ages in your sight
Are like an evening gone;
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.**

**Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Will bear us all away;
We pass forgotten as a dream
dies with the dawning day.**

**Our God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be our defence while life shall last,
And our eternal home.**

Words adapted from Isaac Watts (1674-1748). CM.

PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

CHILDREN'S TALK

PRAISE: ABIDE WITH ME

**Abide with me, fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens: Lord, with me
abide!**

**When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.**

**Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass
away;
change and decay in all around I see:
you never change, O Lord; abide with me.**

**I need your presence every passing hour;
what but your grace can foil the tempter's
power?**

**Who like yourself my guide and strength
can be?**

**Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide
with me.**

**I fear no foe with you at hand to bless;
ills have no weight and tears no
bitterness.**

**Where is death's sting? Where, grave,
your victory?**

I triumph still if you abide with me.

**Hold, Lord, your cross before my closing
eyes;**

**shine through the gloom and point me to
the skies:**

**heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain
shadows flee;**

in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Words – Henry F Lyte (1793-1847). Praise Trust version. CCL License 616262. Streaming 324811.

BIBLE READING: PSALM 121

A song of ascents.

¹ I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?

² My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.

³ He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber;

⁴ indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

⁵ The Lord watches over you—
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;

⁶ the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.

⁷ The Lord will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life;

⁸ the Lord will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE – PSALM 121 (REV DR JOHN S ROSS)

1). THE THREATENING HILLS.

2). THE TRAVELLER'S PERILS.

3). THE REASSURING GOD.

PRAISE: GUIDE ME, O MY GREAT REDEEMER

**Guide me, O my great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;**

**I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your powerful hand.**

**Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.**

**Open now the crystal fountain,
where the healing waters flow.**

**Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.**

**Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
ever be my strength and shield,
ever be my strength and shield.**

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's Destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.

Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever sing to you,
I will ever sing to you.
A Welsh hymn by William Williams (1717-91).

PRAYER & BENEDICTION

SUNDAY AT SIX – live in-person and on our YOUTUBE CHANNEL at 6 PM.
Sunday Evening Preacher: REV JOHN MURDO MACDONALD.

**MARK 13 – DEPENDENCE ON GOD IN THE FACE OF DECEPTION
DISCOURAGEMENT AND DISASTER.**

Praise:

Psalm 100 (Scottish Psalter); My Hope is Built on nothing less; Lord, for the Years.

DIARY, NEWS & PRAYER

We wish you a very happy New Year. We thank everyone who has supported the mission of the Free North, and served our Christian family with their loving actions, prayers and the gift of their time, resources and talents during the past year. A special word of thanks to our office-bearers, staff and pastoral workers at the Free North and in the Merkinch Church Plant. Unfortunately, our minister and family, although all keeping well, have been required to isolate until 3rd January, due to a close contact with a household member who has tested positive for Covid.

Update on Public Health Measures: We have made some changes at the Free North to mitigate risk of transmission while so many people are affected by Covid in the community. We have decided not to offer teas and coffees after services throughout January and will keep this under review. Unless exempt, a face covering should be used indoors. Folk from different households should try to observe 1 m social distancing. Folk leading or singing on the platform may be unmasked but should be 2 m apart or use a partition. Our services on Sundays and Wednesdays will continue to be open for in-person worship and will be shared live online on YouTube. There is no need to book and we will not ask for contact details, but please do not attend if you are feeling unwell. You may wish to take a lateral-flow test before attending events in a public building. There is greater space for social distancing on both sides downstairs and in the balcony area for those who would prefer that. *Road to Recovery* is not to meeting in person for now. The January Week of Prayer will mainly be on Zoom, and the and Hope Explored Course will be on Zoom. We understand that some people will be uncertain about attending church meetings and events during this time. Others will feel a great need to be in fellowship with others and it is important that we respect and support each other over the coming months, as we continue in prayer for God's daily help.

FCYC Youth Camps are back for 2022! For a holiday filled with fun activities, great friendships and helping to build strong disciples visit freechurchyouthcamps.org. Register by January 31st for the best chance to secure your first choice of camp.

We still have copies of the free "**LIFE-IS-MORE**" gospel calendars. Please take as many as you wish to use or give to friends. You can still browse the **bookstall** in the church hall. We have copies of **Explore Daily Reading Notes** (January to March 2022, £3) on the resource table in the church.

If you wish to subscribe to ***The Record***, the magazine of the Free Church of Scotland, please contribute £24 for 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

Wednesday Church Night at 7.30 pm. Prayer and Bible Teaching, in person and on YouTube.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 10th to 14th January**. There will be a short time of prayer on Zoom each day at **9 am and 7.30 pm** (no more than 30 minutes), using the usual log-on details. Prayer will also be **in-person and on YouTube** at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 12th 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 20th January to 3rd February 2022. We will watch a film, discuss a question and explore a Bible passage about the Christian hope. Due to Covid, we will offer this course online only on Zoom. Give it a try and bring a friend! Email angusmacrae1967@gmail.com to request the log-on codes. (The usual Zoom details for most of our meetings online).

Online "Home Groups" will meet on Zoom at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 19th January.

PRAYER

Thank God for his grace and faithfulness in the past year. Pray for gospel growth in our hearts and in our church family in the year ahead. Pray for our ministers Angus and Chris as they teach God's word, for our elders and staff members at the Free North and in the Merkinch Church plant including Carrie and Cristi. Pray for a clear vision to bring the good news to our City. Pray for teachers, pupils and families that the holiday time may be peaceful and joyful. Pray for any who are struggling that they will be comforted. Pray that we would love and care well for each other as a church family.

OUR MISSION PARTNERS

Give thanks for our **International Mission to Jewish People** mission partner **Philip Amos**, who serves in North London. We also support **Patrick Jok**, a leader in the Reformed Church of Sudan in Juba, South Sudan, and our partner **Suresh Vemulapalli**, of India Village Ministries in Andhra Pradesh, a coastal region in South East India.

SUPPORT

Staying in touch: Contact Angus, Carrie or any of the elders for pastoral support. Email office@freenorthchurch.org to request a weekly email update and to request 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. We would like to thank Barbara MacPhail for serving the congregation very faithfully as our congregational treasurer over several years. Barbara will soon be handing this task on to Stuart MacLeod and Danny MacKenzie, and we are grateful to them for being willing to serve the church family in this way.