



SUNDAY 16th 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**.
carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org or 07583 498782.

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 offer courses, small groups and resources to help new people finding their way in the Christian faith. In our services we usually stand for our praise songs and sit for other items of worship. We follow Scottish Government guidance to protect public health. Please use a face covering indoors, unless exempt, and avoid crowding or blocking exits. Folk from different households should try to observe 1 m social distancing. There is no need to book to attend and we will not ask for your contact details but please do not attend if you are feeling unwell. Visit our YouTube channel for live online worship and to listen again at home: www.youtube.com/c/FreeNorthChurchInverness.

MORNING ORDER OF SERVICE – 16th JANUARY 2022

CALL TO WORSHIP (FROM PSALM 115:1,12a,13)

***Not to us, Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory,
because of your love and faithfulness.***

The Lord remembers us and will bless us...

he will bless those who fear the Lord — small and great alike.

PRAISE: SING PSALMS 46a:1-5 (CM)

**God is our refuge and our strength,
our ever-present aid;
And therefore, though the earth gives way,
we will not be afraid.**

**Though mountains fall into the sea,
though waters foam and roar,
We will not fear, though mountains quake
as waves engulf the shore.**

**A river flows, whose streams delight
the city of our God—
The holy place, in which the LORD
Most High has his abode.**

**God is within his holy place;
the city will not yield,
For God will come at break of day
to be her help and shield.**

PRAYER, CHILDREN'S TALK & LORD'S PRAYER WITH 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). The Old Hundredth (LM).

BIBLE READING: PSALM 139

For the director of music. Of David. A psalm.

- ¹ You have searched me, Lord,
and you know me.
² You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.
³ You discern my going out and my lying
down;
you are familiar with all my ways.
⁴ Before a word is on my tongue
you, Lord, know it completely.
⁵ You hem me in behind and before,
and you lay your hand upon me.
⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.
⁷ Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
⁸ If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are
there.
⁹ If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
¹⁰ even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.
¹¹ If I say, 'Surely the darkness will hide me
and the light become night around me,'
¹² even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you.
¹³ For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

- ¹⁴ I praise you because I am fearfully and
wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.
¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths
of the earth.
¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in
your book
before one of them came to be.
¹⁷ How precious to me are your
thoughts, God!
How vast is the sum of them!
¹⁸ Were I to count them,
they would outnumber the grains of sand –
when I awake, I am still with you.
¹⁹ If only you, God, would slay the wicked!
Away from me, you who are bloodthirsty!
²⁰ They speak of you with evil intent;
your adversaries misuse your name.
²¹ Do I not hate those who hate you, Lord,
and abhor those who are in rebellion
against you?
²² I have nothing but hatred for them;
I count them my enemies.
²³ Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.

PRAISE: THOU ART BEFORE ME, LORD

**Thou art before me, Lord, thou art
behind,
And thou above me has spread out thy
hand;
Such knowledge is too wonderful for
me,
Too high to grasp, too great to
understand.**

**Then whither from thy Spirit shall I go,
And whither from thy presence shall I
flee?
If I ascend to heaven thou art there,
And in the lowest depths I meet with
thee.**

**If I should take my flight into the dawn,
If I should dwell on ocean's farthest
shore,**

**Thy mighty hand would rest upon me
still,
And thy right hand would guard me
evermore.**

**If I should say 'Darkness will cover me,
And I shall hide within the veil of night'
Surely the darkness is not dark to thee,
The night is as the day, the darkness light.**

**Search me, O God, search me and know
my heart,
Try me, O God, my mind and spirit try;
Keep me from any path that gives thee
pain,
And lead me in the everlasting way.**

*Psalm 139, version © Iain Pitt-Watson.
Tune: Highland Cathedral.*

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE – PSALMS CORAM DEO – PSALM 139.

HE KNOWS EVERYTHING, HE IS EVERYWHERE.

- 1). CORAM DEO – ALL LIFE IS LIVED BEFORE GOD.
- 2). CORAM DEO – HE KNOWS EVERYTHING.
- 3). CORAM DEO – HE KNOWS EVERYONE.
- 4). CORAM DEO – HE IS EVERYWHERE.

PRAISE: GREAT IS THE GOSPEL

Great is the gospel of our glorious God,
Where mercy met the anger of God's rod;
A penalty was paid and pardon bought,
And sinners lost, at last to Him were
brought:

*O let the praises of my heart be Thine,
For Christ has died that I may call Him
mine,
That I may sing with those who dwell
above,
Adoring, praising Jesus, King of Love.*

Great is the mystery of godliness,
Great is the work of God's own holiness,
It moves my soul, and causes me to long
For greater joys than to the earth belong:

The Spirit vindicated Christ our Lord,
And angels sang with joy and sweet
accord;
The nations heard, a dark world flamed
with
light –

When Jesus rose in glory and in might:

*Words - William Vernon Higham (1926-2016).
CCL License No. 616262. Streaming No. 324811.*

PRAYER & BENEDICTION

SUNDAY AT SIX – 6 PM ORDER OF SERVICE (live in-person & on YouTube).

HEBREWS 12:4-13 – GOD'S CHILDREN, GOD'S DISCIPLINE.

- 1). Endure God's Discipline, Like a Well-Loved Child.
- 2). Endure God's Hardships, Training you for Righteousness and Peace

Evening Praise: *Be Thou My Vision; Sing Psalms 103:8-18; Psalm 145(2):8-14.*

DIARY, NEWS & PRAYER

During January we will not be hosting small groups / home groups in-person or serving teas and coffees after our services. We hope to get back to normal soon as the spread of Covid subsides. We understand some feel uncertain about attending church during this time while many others feel a great need for fellowship with others. It is important we respect and support each other as we look to God for his care and help each day.

FCYC Youth Camps are back, and over 175 have already booked for this summer! For a holiday filled with fun activities, great friendships and helping to build strong disciples visit freechurchoyouthcamps.org. Register by the end of January for the best chance to secure your first choice of camp.

Explore Daily Bible Notes are available on the resource table for January to March (£3).

To subscribe to **The Record**, please contribute £24 for 2022. You can pay with an envelope in the offering with your name and marked for "The Record" (or via Paypal through our website).

EVENTS THIS WEEK

There is no Guys' Group meeting this month, as these events are best held in-person.

Tuesday: The Deacons' Court will meet (via Zoom) at 7.30 pm.

Wednesday: Monthly Home Groups are meeting online on Zoom at 7.30 pm, to study Hebrews 12. Pick up a study guide today. You can join your own group if you know the details or use the usual Zoom log-on to join the group led by Angus.

Thursday: The *Hope Explored Course* is on Zoom (using the usual log-on codes) for the next three Thursdays **from 7 - 8 pm. Pick up a Course Handbook from the Communion Table.** Email angusmacrae1967@gmail.com to request a Handbook or for the Zoom log-on details. Hope feels hard to come by but the Bible offers a hope filled vision of the future. We will watch a film, discuss a question and explore a Bible passage about the Christian hope. If you want to learn more about the Christian faith, or have questions about hope, why not give this course a try!

UPCOMING EVENTS

After our very helpful week of prayer, you may wish to be in a **prayer partnership** (a **prayer triplet**) to help you pray regularly with some friends from church. That could be in person or using technology. Contact Carrie if you would like some help to form a prayer partnership.

The Open Door project aims to create a Christian drop in café and bookshop in central Inverness. They ask for pray especially during the week 23-30 January.

Healing Hurting Hearts is a course developed by the **Scottish Bible Society** to help apply the Bible to heal hurt, loss, grief and trauma. It is helpful for those supporting others and for those living with hurts. A six-week course is being run locally on Zoom on Monday nights from 1st February. If you are interested, contact Ali MacDonald by 18th January (alimacdonald@smithtonchurch.com).

The **Alex MacDonald Band** has released a new album, *Hard as Nails*, featured on Radio Scotland. The band are playing at **Dingwall Free Church** on Saturday 5th February at 7.30pm. Alex will be backed by Rob MacDonald (Drums), Phil Onslow (bass), Cailean Morison (keys), Donald Forsyth (lead guitar) and Olivia Ross (fiddle). You can book tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/alex-macdonald-band-tickets-241850690927> or donate on entry. All profits go to Blythswood Care.

Next month we will celebrate **Communion** with a guest speaker, Rev Murdo Campbell from Barvas, who will lead our services on Saturday 12th (7.30 pm) and Sunday 13th February (11 am and 6 pm).

PRAYER

You can now sign up for regular prayer information from the Free Church, covering churches in Scotland and mission partners around the world. Sign up at: <http://eepurl.com/hPlc1r>. Pray for gospel growth in our hearts and in our church family this year. Pray for our ministers Angus and Chris as they teach God's word, for Chris as he recovers from Covid and for our elders and staff at the Free North and in the Merkinch including Carrie and Cristi. Pray for a clear vision to bring the good news to our City. Pray for opportunities to share Jesus with our family and friends. Pray for all taking part in *Hope Explored*. 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.

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.

Giving: You can donate at our website (PayPal logo), in the offering plate, or directly to our "Free North Church" account (82-65-18, a/c 40246657). Enquiries to treasurer@freenorthchurch.org.