



SUNDAY 23rd JANUARY 2022

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 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. 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 – 23rd JANUARY 2022

CALL TO WORSHIP (FROM 1 COR. 1:9; 15:58)

*God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you.
Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord,
because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.*

PRAISE: PSALM 84:1-2,8-12 (CM)

How lovely is thy dwelling-place,
O LORD of hosts, to me!
The tabernacles of thy grace
how pleasant, LORD, they be!

My thirsty soul longs veh'mently,
yea faints, thy courts to see:
My very heart and flesh cry out,
living God, for thee.

LORD God of hosts, my prayèr hear;
O Jacob's God, give ear.
See God our shield, look on the face
of thine anointed dear.

For in thy courts one day excels
a thousand; rather in
My God's house will I keep a door,
than dwell in tents of sin.

For God the LORD's a sun and shield:
he'll grace and glory give;
And will withhold no good from them
that uprightly do live.

O thou that art the LORD of hosts,
that man is truly blessed,
Who by assured confidence
on thee alone doth rest.

PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

VIDEO – THE VISION OF THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
A HEALTHY GOSPEL CHURCH FOR EVERY COMMUNITY IN SCOTLAND

PRAISE: WERE I TO CROSS FROM LAND TO LAND (PSALM 139)

**Were I to cross from land to land
Or sail afar by sea,
Descend the depths or climb the
heights,
My Lord remains with me.**

**Before the blood ran in these veins,
The days ordained for me
Were written in your book, O Lord,
Before I came to be.**

**I grieve to hear your enemies
Speak hatred, Lord, of You
Long though they scheme with ill-
intent,
Their days are numbered too.**

How precious are your thoughts to me,

**How countless, Lord, they are;
More than the shores have grains of
sand,
More than the skies have stars.**

**Come search and test this heart, O
Lord;
Dispel each anxious thought
And lead me onward evermore
To tread the path I ought.**

**How blessed am I, so bound with love,
Surrounded, yet so free;
In doubt or blessing, life or death,
My Lord remains with me.**

*Version of Psalm 139 by New Scottish Hymns.
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UPDATE ON AUDIO VISUAL TEAM / TRAINING

BIBLE READING: PSALM 84

*For the director of music. According to gittith.
Of the Sons of Korah. A psalm.*

¹ How lovely is your dwelling-place,
Lord Almighty!

² My soul yearns, even faints,
for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh cry out
for the living God.

³ Even the sparrow has found a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may have her young –
a place near your altar,
Lord Almighty, my King and my God.

⁴ Blessed are those who dwell in your house;
they are ever praising you.

⁵ Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.

⁶ As they pass through the Valley of Baka,
they make it a place of springs;

the autumn rains also cover it with pools.
⁷ They go from strength to strength,
till each appears before God in Zion.

⁸ Hear my prayer, Lord God Almighty;
listen to me, God of Jacob.

⁹ Look on our shield, O God;
look with favour on your anointed one.

¹⁰ Better is one day in your courts
than a thousand elsewhere;
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house
of my God

than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

¹¹ For the Lord God is a sun and shield;
the Lord bestows favour and honour;
no good thing does he withhold
from those whose way of life is blameless.

¹² Lord Almighty,
blessed is the one who trusts in you.

**MORNING SERMON OUTLINE – PSALMS CORAM DEO
PSALM 84 – A GOOD LIFE IS LIVED IN GOD'S PRESENCE.**

- 1). HAPPINESS IS LIVING WITH GOD - PRAISE CORAM DEO.
- 2). HAPPINESS IS GOD'S STRENGTH IN YOUR HEART.
- 3). HAPPINESS IS TRUSTING IN GOD FOREVER.

PRAISE: FROM THE DEPTHS OF SHAME AND SORROW (PSALM 130)

From the depths of shame and sorrow,
from my guilt and my despair,
LORD, I cry to you for mercy—
be attentive to my prayer.

*All my joy is in your presence,
all my hope is in your word;
more than watchmen wait for morning
waits my soul for you, O LORD!*

If our sins you still remembered,
how could anyone draw near?
But with you there is forgiveness,
so we come with reverent fear.

With the LORD is love unending—
let his people hope in him!
With our God is full redemption,
full atonement for our sin.

*Tune: Dim Ond Iesu. Author: Emma Turl. Praise Trust
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PRAYER & BENEDECTION

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

HEBREWS 12:14-29 – RUN FROM BITTER ROOTS TO THE CITY OF PEACE.

- 1). Run from Bitter Roots, and Godless Choices.
- 2). Run from Mount Fear to God's Mountain of Joy.

Evening Praise: *By Faith; Sing Psalms 48a:1,8-14; Sing Psalms 87:1-7.*

DIARY, NEWS & PRAYER

The government announced the lifting of many Covid restrictions. From February we will resume serving refreshments after Sunday services and in-person activities in homes and small groups. We value coming together for friendship, fellowship and to share in worship and mutual support. Pray for one another and for any folk who are feeling particularly vulnerable or in need of our care.

FCYC Youth Camps offer holidays filled with fun activities, great friendships and help to build strong disciples. Visit freechurchyouthcamps.org. Booking by the end of January is advised.

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

To subscribe to **The Record**, please contribute £24 by the end of January. Mark your contribution with your name as for "The Record" (in the offering box or via Paypal through our website). There are lists available indicating if subscriptions have yet to be received.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Monday: Merkinch Church plant plan to hold a Zoom prayer time for their prayer partners at 8 pm.

Wednesday: Join us in-person or on YouTube for Wednesday **Church Night at 7.30 pm**, with worship and prayer, and helping to equip us to reach out to our community in 2022.

Thursday: The *Hope Explored Course* continues on Zoom (using the usual log-on codes) for the next two Thursdays **from 7 - 8 pm. Pick up a Course Handbook from the Communion Table.** Email angusmacrae1967@gmail.com to request a Handbook. 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!

Saturday: 3:16 Media are running a Training Event at the Free North this Saturday from 10 am to 3.30 pm, including lunch. This should be helpful to anyone involved with tech at church. Would you like to improve your skills and share experience with others from local churches? See <https://training.316.events> for details and a link to book a place (£10).

UPCOMING EVENTS

You may wish to be in a prayer group or triplet (in person or using technology) to help you pray regularly with friends from church. Contact Carrie if you would like some help to form a partnership.

The Open Door project aims to create a Christian drop in café and bookshop in central Inverness. They ask for prayer especially during this week 23-30 January. See their page on social media.

Guys Group: Men from the church family are welcome to the Guys Group. We plan to meet on Mondays at 7 pm on 21st Feb and 7th and 21st March to chat about the book *Disciplines of a Godly Man*. Interested in meeting for a curry this Friday 28th January at 7 pm? Text or email Angus.

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 (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

Pray for a clear vision to bring the good news to our City. Pray for opportunities to share Jesus with family and friends. Pray for all taking part in *Hope Explored*.

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>. In recent days folk have been praying for our sister churches in Dornoch and South Harris, and for international partners, Dumisani training church leaders in the eastern Cape of South Africa, Osamu and Mairi church planting in Japan, and Manuel and Patty Reano, counselling and supporting pastoral families in Colombia. Patty has been unwell.

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.