



SUNDAY 20th MARCH 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 offer courses, small groups and resources to help people find their way as followers of Jesus. We usually stand for praise songs and sit for other items of worship. Tea and Coffee is served in the hall after both services. Due to continuing high levels of Covid the Scottish Government has delayed ending the requirement for the use of face coverings in indoor spaces including churches. The Government expect this requirement to remain in place until Monday 4th April. Please be mindful of one another and respect those who wish to continue using a face covering as well as respecting those who are anxious to return to more normal patterns of behaviour. Social distancing is encouraged in the seats to the left and right at the back of the church. Please do not attend church if you have any symptoms of coronavirus. Visit our YouTube channel for live online worship and to listen again at home: www.youtube.com/c/FreeNorthChurchInverness.

MORNING SERVICE - WELCOME

Today we are delighted to welcome Rev David Scott to lead our worship. David previously served as Church of Scotland Minister at Fearn Abbey in Ross-shire. Brian Cameron, one of our elders, will begin the service. Our minister Angus is away conducting communion services at Bonar Bridge.

CALL TO WORSHIP: 1 TIMOTHY 1:17

*Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God,
be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

PRAISE: IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE (St. Denio)

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes;
most holy, most glorious, the Ancient of
days,
almighty, victorious, your great name we
praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting nor wasting, you rule us in
might;
your justice like mountains high soaring
above
your clouds, which are fountains of
goodness and love.

To all, life you give, Lord, to both great
and small,
in all life you live, Lord, the true life of all:

we blossom and flourish, uncertain & frail;
we wither and perish, but you never fail.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light;
your angels adore you, all veiling their
sight;
but of all your rich graces, Lord, this grace
impart,
take the veil from our faces, the veil from
our heart.

Our praise we would render, O Father, to
you
whom only the splendour of light hides
from view;
and so let your glory, Almighty, impart,
through Christ in the story, your Christ to
the heart.

PRAYER, TALK TO CHILDREN & LORD'S PRAYER

PRAISE: SING PSALMS 93:1-5 (CM)

**The LORD is king; his throne endures
majestic in his height.**

**The LORD is robed in majesty
and armed with strength and might.**

**The world is founded firm and sure—
removed it cannot be.**

**Your throne is strong, and you are God
from all eternity.**

**The seas, O LORD, have lifted up,
they lifted up their voice;**

**The seas have lifted up their waves
and made a mighty noise.**

**The LORD, enthroned on high, is strong;
more powerful is he**

**Than thunder of the ocean's waves
or breakers of the sea.**

**Your royal statutes, LORD, stand firm;
unchanging is your word.**

**And holiness adorns your house
for endless days, O LORD.**

BIBLE READINGS: HABAKKUK 1:1-6; 2:1-4; 3:1-2,16-19 (READ BY REV DAVID SCOTT)

^{1:1} The prophecy that Habakkuk the prophet
received.

² How long, Lord, must I call for help,
but you do not listen?
Or cry out to you, 'Violence!'
but you do not save?

³ Why do you make me look at injustice?
Why do you tolerate wrongdoing?
Destruction and violence are before me;
there is strife, and conflict abounds.

⁴ Therefore the law is paralysed,
and justice never prevails.
The wicked hem in the righteous,
so that justice is perverted.

⁵ 'Look at the nations and watch –
and be utterly amazed.
For I am going to do something in your days
that you would not believe,
even if you were told.

⁶ I am raising up the Babylonians,
that ruthless and impetuous people,
who sweep across the whole earth
to seize dwellings not their own.

...

^{2:1} I will stand at my watch
and station myself on the ramparts;
I will look to see what he will say to me,
and what answer I am to give to this
complaint.

² Then the Lord replied:

'Write down the revelation
and make it plain on tablets
so that a herald may run with it.

³ For the revelation awaits an appointed time;
it speaks of the end
and will not prove false.
Though it linger, wait for it;
it will certainly come
and will not delay.

⁴ 'See, the enemy is puffed up;
his desires are not upright –
but the righteous person will live by his
faithfulness –

...

^{3:1} A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet.
On shigionoth.

² Lord, I have heard of your fame;
I stand in awe of your deeds, Lord.
Repeat them in our day,
in our time make them known;
in wrath remember mercy.

...

^{3:16} I heard and my heart pounded,
my lips quivered at the sound;
decay crept into my bones,
and my legs trembled.
Yet I will wait patiently for the day of calamity
to come on the nation invading us.

¹⁷ Though the fig-tree does not bud
and there are no grapes on the vines,
though the olive crop fails
and the fields produce no food,
though there are no sheep in the sheepfold

and no cattle in the stalls,
¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the Lord,
I will be joyful in God my Saviour.

¹⁹ The Sovereign Lord is my strength;
he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,
he enables me to tread on the heights.
For the director of music. On my stringed
instruments.

PRAISE: SING PSALMS 1(A):1-6 (CM)

**Blessed is the one who turns away
from where the wicked walk,
Who does not stand in sinners' paths
or sit with those who mock.**

**Instead he finds God's holy law
his joy and great delight;
He makes the precepts of the LORD
his study day and night.**

**He prospers ever like a tree
that's planted by a stream,**

**And in due season yields its fruit;
its leaves are always green.**

**Not so the wicked! They are like
chaff that's blown away.
They will not stand when judgment comes
or with the righteous stay.**

**It is the LORD who sees and knows
the way the righteous go,
But those who live an evil life
the LORD will overthrow.**

**SERMON BY REV DAVID SCOTT – HABAKKUK 1-3.
GOD'S WAYS ARE NOT OUR WAYS.**

PRAISE: PSALM 46:7-11 (CM)

**The LORD of hosts upon our side
doth constantly remain:
The God of Jacob's our refuge,
us safely to maintain.**

**Come, and behold what wondrous works
have by the LORD been wrought;
Come, see what desolations
he on the earth hath brought.**

**Unto the ends of all the earth
wars into peace he turns:
The bow he breaks, the spear he cuts,
in fire the chariot burns.**

**Be still, and know that I am God;
among the heathen I
Will be exalted; I on earth
will be exalted high.**

**Our God, who is the LORD of hosts,
is still upon our side;
The God of Jacob our refuge
for ever will abide.**

**But who is he that is the King
of glory? who is this?
The LORD of hosts, and none but he,
the King of glory is.**

The Scottish Psalter of 1650 (CM).

BENEDICTION

SUNDAY AT SIX PM – LIVE IN-PERSON & ON YOUTUBE AT 6 PM.

SERMON BY REV DAVID SCOTT:

PHILIPPIANS 3:12-21.

THE RETURN OF JESUS.

Praise: Sing Psalms 96B:1-9 (Finlandia); Sing Psalms 16:6-11; Psalm 72:1-6, 19.

Join us after both services for tea and coffee and a chance to chat with others in the church hall.

DIARY, NEWS & PRAYER

One of our members, **Alan Petit**, plans to run a marathon at Bught Park track, raising funds for **Operation Mobilisation's work amongst refugees in Rivne, Ukraine**, 200 miles NW of Kiev. Funds will support Pastor Oleg Abaturov. He writes, *'Sirens, sirens, sirens! Every night: Missiles, drones, saboteurs. The enemies come at night. Please keep praying for us. I am in charge of helping refugees in the city now. Every day they arrive in our city. They're shocked, without any clothes or other things, they're hungry! Five cars deliver food to these people, so the best help for us is money for fuel and food for refugees.'* Please pass donations directly to Allan. Frances Campbell has also prepared a donation box to receive gifts for Ukraine.

Meal Train: Thanks to all who signed up to provide a meal for Danny and Dorothy Mackenzie and family. There is one slot left (Thursday 24th). See <https://mealtrain.com/nq81ed>.

Please take any free **Easter Resources** to help share your faith. These include Leaflets, Gospels and Bible Stories for kids. We also have **Explore** daily Bible reading notes for April to June (£3).

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Monday: The Guys Group is this Monday at 7 pm. The venue has changed to Angus' home (19 Mingary Crescent). We will chat about the book *Disciplines of a Godly Man*, pages 155-168.

Tuesday: Women's Bible Study groups meet at 10.30 am (Anna MacRitchie's, 26 Mackay Road) and 7.45 pm (Mairi Macaulay's, 31 Harris Road) studying Genesis 2:4-25. We'll have a break over the Easter holidays with the next study on 19th April.

Tuesday: The **Deacons' Court** will meet at 7.30 pm.

Wednesday: Monthly **Home Groups** meet for Bible Study and fellowship at 5 venues around the City at 7.30 pm, plus an online group on Zoom. **Pick up a Study Guide with details of venues and a link for the online group.**

Thursday: Road to Recovery meets at 7.30 pm offering support to those recovering from addiction.

Saturday: We will host a **Joint YF** in the CYC building from 6.30 to 8.30 pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Sunday we will have a collection for **Tear Fund** and a **Fellowship Lunch** in the hall. Look out for donation boxes. Why not invite someone along to the service and to the lunch afterwards?

Our next **Week of Prayer** starts on Monday 28th March with daily prayer at 8 am and some evening events. The week ends with a prayer breakfast on Saturday 2nd April and **Communion** on Sunday 3rd April. Contact the minister or any elder if you wish to discuss becoming a member of the church.

The **Free North AGM** is on Wednesday 30th March at 7.30 pm. Copies of the Report of the Deacons' Court with Abbreviated or Full Accounts are available. We welcome you to attend the AGM. Email: treasurer@freenorthchurch.org if you have any questions regarding the accounts.

Blythswood Care are organising an **Afternoon Tea** at Kingsmills Hotel on Thursday 28th April to raise funds for the **Cornerstone Project in India**. It is set to be a wonderful afternoon of fine food, fellowship and an opportunity to hear more about the ongoing work of Blythswood in India. If you would like to be part of a Free North table, please speak Fiona Cameron (07 879 000 003). Ticket price is £22:50 per person. It would be wonderful to see you there.

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.