



SUNDAY 3rd APRIL 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 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. From tomorrow (4th April) the use of a face covering indoors in a place of worship becomes a voluntary choice rather than a legal requirement. Many will welcome this change as a step towards more normal behaviour and open and natural fellowship. Many will also feel some anxiety and concern for others while the incidence of Covid remains high. Please be mindful of one another and respectful of those who take differing views about the speed of change. It may be wise to continue using a face covering for a few more weeks while moving through corridors or crowded areas. Social distancing is encouraged in the seats to the left and right at the back of the church. To keep everyone safe 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.

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP: PSALM 95:6-7

***Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
He is our God; we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. Amen.***

PRAISE: SHOW US CHRIST

Prepare our hearts, O God.

Help us to receive.

Break the hard and stony ground.

Help our unbelief.

Plant Your Word down deep in us;

cause it to bear fruit.

Open up our ears to hear,

lead us in Your truth.

Show us Christ, show us Christ.

O God, reveal Your glory

through the preaching of Your Word.

Until every heart confesses Christ is Lord.

Your Word is living light

upon our darkened eyes.

**Guards us through temptations,
makes the simple wise.**

Your Word is food for famished ones,

Freedom for the slave.

Riches for the needy soul.

Come speak to us today.

Show us Christ...

Where else can we go, Lord?

Where else can we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Show us Christ...

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PRAYER, WELCOME OF NEW MEMBER – MURDO MURCHISON
TALK TO CHILDREN & LORD'S PRAYER

NEW CITY CATECHISM 4 – HOW AND WHY DID GOD CREATE US?

God created us male and female in his own image to know him, love him, live with him, and glorify him. And it is right that we who were created by God should live to his glory.

PRAISE: WHEN I SURVEY (LM)

**When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count as loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the cross of Christ my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.**

**See from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down:
did e'er such love and sorrow meet?
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an offering far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all!**

BIBLE READING: MARK 15:1-20

¹Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate.

²'Are you the king of the Jews?' asked Pilate. 'You have said so,' Jesus replied.

³The chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴So again Pilate asked him, 'Aren't you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of.' ⁵But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.

⁶Now it was the custom at the festival to release a prisoner whom the people requested. ⁷A man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder in the uprising. ⁸The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did.

⁹'Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?' asked Pilate, ¹⁰knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. ¹¹But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to get Pilate to release Barabbas instead.

¹²'What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?' Pilate asked them.

¹³'Crucify him!' they shouted.

¹⁴'Why? What crime has he committed?' asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, 'Crucify him!'

¹⁵Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

¹⁶The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. ¹⁷They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. ¹⁸And they began to call out to him, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' ¹⁹Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spat on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. ²⁰And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

SERMON: MARK 15:1-20 – JESUS: FACING DARKNESS FROM BELOW

- 1). THE NIGHT HE WAS ADORED.
- 2). THE NIGHT HE WAS BETRAYED.
- 3). THE NIGHT HE PRAYED.
- 4). THE NIGHT OF SORROWS FROM MANKIND.
- 5). THE NIGHT OF SORROWS FROM THE PIT.
- 6). THE NIGHT WHEN SALVATION-HISTORY CAME TO A HEAD.

PRAISE: PSALM 116:13-19 (CM)

I'll of salvation take the cup,
on GOD's name will I call:
I'll pay my vows now to the LORD
before his people all.

Dear in GOD's sight is his saints' death.
Thy servant, LORD, am I;
Thy servant sure, thine handmaid's son:
my bands thou didst untie.

Thank-off'rings I to thee will give,
and on GOD's name will call.
I'll pay my vows now to the LORD
before his people all;
Within the courts of GOD's own house,
within the midst of thee,
O city of Jerusalem.
Praise to the LORD give ye.

CONFESSION OF SIN & SHARING IN COMMUNION

Merciful God, we cast ourselves before your throne of grace.

You see in us every wrong act, unclean thought and selfish motive.

The burden of our sins is more than we can bear.

But where our sin abounds, O God, let your grace much more abound.

May we find forgiveness in Jesus Christ our only resting place, for the sake of your glory. Amen

PRAISE: PSALM 72:17-19 (CM)

His name for ever shall endure;
last like the sun it shall:
Men shall be blessed in him, and blessed
all nations shall him call.

Now blessed be the LORD our God,
the God of Israel,

For he alone doth wondrous works,
in glory that excel.

And blessed be his glorious name
to all eternity:
The whole earth let his glory fill.
Amen, so let it be.

BENEDICTION

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

MARK 15:21-41 – THE MAN OF SORROWS FACING DARKNESS FROM ABOVE.

Praise: *My Heart is Filled with Thankfulness; Sing Psalms 22:23-27; He will Hold Me Fast.*

DIARY, NEWS & PRAYER

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

We extend our sympathy to the nephews and nieces and friends of one of our oldest members, Miss Nan MacDonald, who died last Friday morning at Ballifeary Nursing Home, aged 92.

As we pray for God's protection, peace and justice in Ukraine, the Free Church encourages gifts to be directed to Blythswood Care (<https://blythswood.org/donate-to-ukraine-appeal/>). Alan Petit plans to run a marathon at Bught Park track, raising funds for Operation Mobilisation's work amongst refugees in Rivne, Ukraine. He is grateful for your support for Pastor Oleg Abaturon and his church who are helping feed and care for refugees from the conflict zone. Please pass donations directly to Allan or use the donation box for Ukraine.

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).

EASTER EVENTS

Please invite your friends and contacts to join us over the next few weeks as we share the Easter good news of hope and life through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Please consider using the Easter resources to read a gospel with a friend or to invite children round for an Easter egg hunt. A holiday Sunday School and creche is available over the next three weekends.

Guest services on **Palm Sunday** 10th April at 11 am and 6 pm. We will be joined by Josh Hamilton a church planter from Living Hope Church at 6 pm.

Good Friday 15th April at 11 am - a service of **Readings and Meditations around the Cross**.

Easter Sunday 17th April at 11 am and 6 pm. Evening Service is an **Easter Praise Night**.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Today: We share in **Communion** at 11 am. All who take part should receive an individual serving of bread and wine from the start of the service. Visitors who would normally take communion in their home church are welcome to take part. Communion is a sign the body and blood of Jesus given for us. The sign is given by God to all those who respond in faith to God's gospel of grace.

The April **Record** magazine is now available, as are **Explore** daily Bible Reading Notes.

Wednesday: Join us at Wednesday Church Night for Prayer and Bible teaching, at 7.30 pm.

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

Friday: Online prayer on Zoom at 9 am.

PRAYER

Pray for God to move in power and grace over our church, our city and nation, sending revival to the church and drawing many to Christ. Pray for healthy gospel churches in each community in Scotland. Ask God to show you people to pray with whom you may share your faith. Pray for a natural and open witness to others. Pray for deepening friendships as we love and serve folk inside and outside the Christian family. Pray for opportunities to invite someone to the Free North.

NEWS FROM THE WIDER FREE CHURCH

Sign up on the prayer page on the Free Church website to receive weekly Praying for One Another prayer points to help you pray for the church locally, nationally and globally: www.freechurch.org/prayer. The Free Church are currently recruiting a **Mission Coordinator** (Job Share) <https://freechurch.org/vacancy-mission-coordinator/>. This role would make a significant difference to the Central Office and wider denomination.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The next **Women's Bible Study** is on Tuesday 19th April. The next **Guys Group** is on Monday 25th April. **Monthly Home Groups** will meet on 20th April, 18th May, & 15th June 2022.

May Communion: Rev Alasdair MacAulay (minister at Tain and Fearn Free Church) will join us on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th May for a communion weekend.

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.