



SUNDAY 24th 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! We are glad you are with us at the Free North. As we come together to worship God, we hope you will be encouraged to know and follow Jesus. If you are new at church or wish to find out more about the faith, please fill in a CONTACT CARD. You can use this to request a weekly email update, information on specific groups and courses, request a phone call or a visit, or find out about how you can serve God and use your gifts and talents in the life of the church. Speak to one of the service leaders, a member of the welcome team or send us an email or text if that is easier for you. We usually stand for praise songs and sit for other items of worship. Feel free to participate fully in the service or simply to observe. **Refreshments** are served in the church hall after our services. The use of a face covering at indoor church services is no longer a legal requirement. We respect and understand differing concerns around the risk of Covid, so please give space and consideration to each other including those who feel more comfortable using a face covering. 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 are experiencing the 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 (from Psalm 149, NET Bible)

Praise the Lord. Sing to the Lord a new song.

Praise him in the assembly of the godly.

Let Israel rejoice in their Creator. Let the people of Zion delight in their King.

Let them praise his name with dancing.

Let them sing praises to him... for the Lord takes delight in his people.

PRAISE: SING PSALMS 67:1-7

God be merciful and bless us;
shine upon us with your face,
That the earth may know your actions
and all lands your saving grace.

O God, may the peoples praise you;
may all peoples sing your praise.
For you judge the nations justly,
ruling over every race.

May they sing with joy and gladness;
may they all rejoice as one.
O God, may the peoples praise you
as they all unite in song.

Then the land will yield its harvest;
God will pour his gifts abroad.
God, our God, will surely bless us;
all the earth will fear our God.

(8787) – SING PSALMS VERSION, © 2003.

TALK TO CHILDREN & LORD'S PRAYER

New City Catechism 5: What else did God create?

God created all things by his powerful Word, and all his creation was very good; everything flourished under his loving rule.

PRAISE: O CHURCH ARISE

O church, arise and put your armour on;
Hear the call of Christ our captain;
For now the weak can say that they are
strong
In the strength that God has given.

With shield of faith and belt of truth
We'll stand against the devil's lies;
An army bold whose battle cry is "Love!"
Reaching out to those in darkness.

Our call to war, to love the captive soul,
But to rage against the captor;
And with the sword that makes the
wounded whole
We will fight with faith and valour.

When faced with trials on ev'ry side,
We know the outcome is secure,
And Christ will have the prize for which He
died—
An inheritance of nations.

Come, see the cross where love and
mercy meet,
As the Son of God is stricken;
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His
feet,
For the Conqueror has risen!

And as the stone is rolled away,
And Christ emerges from the grave,
This vict'ry march continues till the day
Ev'ry eye and heart shall see Him.

So Spirit, come, put strength in ev'ry
stride,
Give grace for ev'ry hurdle,
That we may run with faith to win the prize
Of a servant good and faithful.

As saints of old still line the way,
Retelling triumphs of His grace,
We hear their calls and hunger for the day
When, with Christ, we stand in glory.

*Words & Music by Keith Getty & Stuart Townend.
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PRAYER

UPDATE FROM CARRIE MARLOW, WOMEN'S PASTORAL WORKER

BIBLE READING: ACTS 1:1-11

¹ In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

⁶ Then they gathered round him and asked him, 'Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?'

⁷ He said to them: 'It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'

⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.'

PRAISE: PSALM 89:15-18 (CM)

O greatly blessed the people are
the joyful sound that know;
In brightness of thy face, O LORD,
they ever on shall go.

They in thy name shall all the day
rejoice exceedingly;
And in thy righteousness shall they
exalted be on high.

Because the glory of their strength
doth only stand in thee;
And in thy favour shall our horn
and pow'r exalted be.

For GOD is our defence; and he
to us doth safety bring:
The Holy One of Israel
is our almighty King.

SERMON: ACTS 1:1-11 - THE HEALTHY GOSPEL CHURCH BEGINS

- 1). OUR KING IS ALIVE.
- 2). OUR KING IS WITH US BY HIS HOLY SPIRIT.
- 3). OUR KING MUST BE KING OF EVERYWHERE.

PRAISE: JESUS SHALL REIGN (GETTY / CASH VERSION)

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does his successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till suns shall rise and set no more.

Blessings abound where'er He reigns
The pris'ner leaps to lose his chains
The weary find eternal rest
And all the sons of want are blessed

*To our King be highest praise
Rising through eternal days
Just and faithful He shall reign:
Jesus shall reign!*

People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on His name
To our King....

Let every creature rise and bring
Blessing and honor to our King
Angels descend with songs again
And earth repeat the loud amen!

*Isaac Watts (1674-1748). Chorus words & music Keith
& Kristen Getty & Ed Cash © 2017 Getty Music.*

BENEDICTION

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

The Apostles' Creed – What The Healthy Gospel Church Believes.

Praise: Sing Psalms 99a:1-5, My Soul Will Wait (Psalm 62); Immortal, Invisible.

DIARY, NEWS & PRAYER

Join us in the hall for drinks and refreshments and a chance to chat with others after both services today. Sunday School and creche is available in the morning, with a Youth Fellowship at night.

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. Tonight we plan to show a video from the **Inverness, Lochaber and Ross Presbytery** highlighting plans to **RESOURCE CHURCHES** across our region. View the video at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T3qqzkh0hRw&list=PLM1F6sk2Nw0s_ovk1auxcNT4EzRNn50np.

As we move on from months of uncertainty and disruption to our lives, it seems good to try to reset and reenergise church life. As part of that we want to encourage folk to attend in-person if they can. From today we have two new teaching series on Sundays to help us to reset and go forward as a healthy gospel church. On Sunday mornings we turn to the **Book of Acts**, for **“The Healthy Gospel Church Begins.”** Acts follows on from Luke’s Gospel with the exciting story of the early church. On Sunday evenings we turn to look at a collection of basic Christian beliefs, **“What the Healthy Gospel Church Believes”**, summarised in the **Apostles’ Creed**, an ancient text dating from around 130 AD.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Monday: The **Guys Group** is on Monday 25th at 7 pm, at John MacAulay’s home, *Willowglen*, 31 Harris Road. It will help to have read *Disciplines of a Godly Man*, pages 169-181.

Tuesday: Our team of elders (the Kirk Session) meet in the fellowship area at 7.30 pm.

Wednesday: Join us at **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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May Communion: Alasdair MacAulay (minister at Tain and Fearn FC) will join us on Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th May, as we share in a weekend of Bible teaching and celebrate communion.

The Guys Group meets again on Mondays 16th May and 6th June.

David Meredith will meet our leadership team again on Tuesday 7th June, as we develop vision and plans for the future.

Monthly Home Groups will meet on 18th May & 15th June 2022.

NEWS & PRAYER TOPICS FROM THE WIDER CHURCH

Sign up at www.freechurch.org/prayer to receive a weekly **Praying for One Another** bulletin. **Rev Ciarán Kelleher** was ordained and inducted yesterday as Church Planting minister at **Grace Church in Montrose**. Ciaran is married to Sarah, and he grew up in Limerick, in the West of Ireland. He trained at ETS, Cornhill Scotland, and with Free Church congregations at St Andrews and Dundee. As we pray for sister churches, **Davi de Paula** is being ordained as an elder at **Burghead** today. **Christ Church Edinburgh** asks for a renewed commitment to public worship and prayer as a church community. **Gairloch, Kinlochewe and Torridon** give thanks for a weekly Ladies Bible Study in Gairloch and a weekly Community Bible Study on Zoom, both w shared with the local Church of Scotland. **Shawbost** in Lewis plan to start a Youth Club for Teens, as they work to connect with young people. Pray for the **Principal Clerk** and his team and for Assembly Boards and Committees as they prepare papers and reports for the **General Assembly** meeting in May, when **Rev Iver Martin** will take over as Moderator. Pray for our mission partner **Philip Amos** as he witnesses to ultra-Orthodox Jews in London, studying the Bible to point people to Jesus.

Anna MacRitchie is recovering after hip-replacement surgery. Pray for **Willie Murray** and **Tina Fraser** as they wait for a date for surgery and face health challenges. **Angus Campbell** is going through a series of surgeries. Remember them in prayer along with all who are sick or bereaved.