



SUNDAY 1st MAY 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 mask at church services is no longer a legal requirement. Please give space and consideration to each other including those who feel more comfortable using a face mask. 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 Deuteronomy 4:4-9,12a)

Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.

Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the door-frames of your houses and on your gates... Be careful that you do not forget the Lord.

PRAISE: SING PSALMS 100:1-5

Shout to the LORD with joy,
all who to earth belong.

Adore the LORD with joyful hearts
and come to him in song.

Know that the LORD is God;
he made us as his own.

We are the sheep for whom he cares—
his people, his alone.

Enter his gates with praise,
his courts with thankfulness.
Your praises gladly sing to him;
his name for ever bless.

For God the LORD is good;
his love is ever sure.
His constant truth and faithfulness
through every age endure.

(SM) – SING PSALMS VERSION, © 2003.

TALK TO CHILDREN & LORD'S PRAYER

New City Catechism 6: How Can We Glorify God?

**WE GLORIFY GOD BY ENJOYING HIM, LOVING HIM, TRUSTING HIM,
AND BY OBEYING HIS WILL, COMMANDS, AND LAW.**

Gracious Lord, we want to fully know and enjoy you. Open our eyes to see you as you are that we might trust you and long with all we are to keep your commands. Whether through small kindnesses or great courage, may each act of obedience bring you glory. Amen.

PRAISE: MY SOUL WILL WAIT

**When the enemy surrounds,
And my heart grows faint within.
When the darkness overwhelms,
And my fears are pressing in.
I will trust in You, O Lord,
In the silence I will wait,
I will stand upon Your Word.**

***You're my solid rock and my salvation,
My steadfast hope that won't be shaken.
My soul will wait, my soul will wait for
You.***

**You're my stronghold and my shield,
In the midst of every threat.
Though the wicked never yield
They will vanish like a breath.
Yes, I know the outcome's sure,
Satan's evil plans will fail,
In Your power I'm secure.**

You're my solid rock...

***You're my comfort when I feel forsaken,
My refuge and my sure foundation.
My soul will wait, my soul will wait for
You.***

**This is love I can't explain,
This is mercy unreserved.
Through Your sacrifice so great
I have peace that's undeserved.
For the battle has been won
And I fear no shame or loss
Now the sting of death is gone.**

You're my solid rock...

You're my comfort when I feel forsaken...

*Words & Music based on Psalm 62 by Keaton Bunting
and Bob Kauflin © 2022 Sovereign Grace Praise.
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PRAYER & VIDEO FROM THE PRESBYTERY

BIBLE READING: ACTS 1:12-26

¹² Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. ¹³ When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) ¹⁶ and said, 'Brothers and sisters, the Scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷ He was one of our number and shared in our ministry.'

¹⁸ (With the payment he received for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out. ¹⁹ Everyone in Jerusalem heard about this, so they called that field in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.)

²⁰ 'For,' said Peter, 'it is written in the Book of Psalms:

“May his place be deserted;
let there be no one to dwell in it,”

and,

“May another take his place of leadership.”

²¹ Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus was living among us, ²² beginning from John's baptism to the

time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.'

²³ So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and

Matthias. ²⁴ Then they prayed, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs.' ²⁶ Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

SERMON: ACTS 1:12-26 – HEALTHY GOSPEL LEADERSHIP.

- 1). A HEALTHY GOSPEL CHURCH IS PRAYER-DRIVEN.
- 2). A HEALTHY GOSPEL CHURCH IS BIBLE-DRIVEN.
- 3). A HEALTHY GOSPEL CHURCH IS LEADER-DRIVEN.

PRAISE: BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD ABOVE

**Before the throne of God above
I have a strong, a perfect plea,
a great high priest, whose name is love,
who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is written on his hands,
my name is hidden in his heart;
I know that while in heaven he stands
no power can force me to depart,
no power can force me to depart.**

**When Satan tempts me to despair,
and tells me of the guilt within,
I look to heaven, and see him there
who made an end of all my sin.
Because the sinless Saviour died**

**my sinful soul is counted free;
for God, the just, is satisfied
to look on him and pardon me,
to look on him and pardon me.**

**Behold him there! The risen Lamb,
my perfect, spotless righteousness,
the great unchangeable I AM,
the King of glory and of grace!
One with himself, I cannot die,
my soul is purchased by his blood;
my life is safe with Christ on high,
with Christ, my Saviour and my God,
with Christ, my Saviour and my God.**

Charitie Bancroft (1841-1923).

BENEDICTION

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

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

I Believe in God the Father Almighty – Acts 17:16-34.

Praise: Sing Psalms 48a:8-14, Speak, O Lord; Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven.

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. There is no Sunday evening Youth Fellowship this Bank holiday 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.

This morning 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 the uncertainty and disruption of Covid, it seems good to try to reset church life. We strongly encourage folk to attend worship in-person if they can. We have new Bible teaching series on Sundays to help us go forward as a healthy gospel church. On Sunday mornings we turn to the **Book of Acts**, where **“The Healthy Gospel Church Begins.”** On Sunday evenings we learn from a collection of basic Christian beliefs, **“What the Healthy Gospel Church Believes”**, as summarised in the **Apostles’ Creed**, an ancient Christian text dating from around 130 AD.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

Tuesday: The Women’s Bible Study meets at 10.30 am (at Effie Finlay’s, 62 Leachkin Avenue) and 7.45 pm (at Catherine Mackenzie’s, 29b Midmills Road). We will continue our series in Genesis, looking at 4:1-16. All welcome to join us. Get in touch with Carrie for more information or to request a copy of the Study Guide. Future dates: 17th & 31st May, 14th & 28th June.

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.

Friday: The Open Door Project have an update evening focussed on their mission to develop a Christian drop-in space in Inverness. The event is this Friday at 7.30 pm at Smithton Church, when Rev Hector Morrison will speak.

Saturday and next Sunday: Rev Alasdair MacAulay, minister at Tain and Fearn Free Church, is our guest preacher for a weekend of Bible teaching and worship this coming weekend. Join us on Saturday at 7.30 pm for praise and Bible teaching and again next Sunday morning for a **Communion service** at 11 and for evening worship at 6 pm. Alasdair will also share and answer questions at an after-church fellowship on Sunday evening. Please contact the minister or any of our team of elders to discuss coming into membership of the congregation at this communion.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Guys Group meets again on Mondays 16th May and 6th June. We will be *discussing Disciplines of a Godly Man*, chapter 12 on *WORK* in May, and chapter 13 on *PERSEVERANCE* in June.

David Meredith will meet our leadership team on Tuesday 7th June, as we develop our ministry plan.

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. ETS Students have completed another year and now have exams. The Highland Faith Mission Team are on mission in **Tiree** from 4-8 May. We remember our mission partner **Patrick Jok** in South Sudan. We pray for the process of electing new local authority **Councillors** around Scotland. We pray for our sister churches, including **Grace Church in Montrose** (Rev Ciarán Kelleher); **Oban Free High** (Rev Iain Morrison); **Cross** at Ness in Lewis (Rev Ewan Matheson). We pray for the **General Assembly** meeting in May, when **Rev Iver Martin** will take over as Moderator. We give thanks that Anna MacRitchie and Angus Campbell had successful surgeries and that dates have been advised for Willie Murray and Tina Fraser to receive their treatments. Following a serious stroke, Mrs Mary MacDonald has been receiving palliative care in hospital. We bring this situation and all her family to the Lord in prayer.