



The Free North Church Inverness

a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland

A GUIDE TO SUNDAY WORSHIP

11 am – Sunday 13th September 2020

*Sunday services at 11 am and 7 pm are conducted by our minister
Rev Angus MacRae. Tel: (01349) 862183. Mobile: 07 506 006 459.*

Email: angusmacrae1967@gmail.com

This is a guide to our Sunday Morning Service, held live in-person at the Free North Church and also broadcast online at 11 am on the Free North YouTube channel and available afterwards for catch-up. Tonight, a short service including praise will stream on YouTube at 7 pm.

There is NO Zoom fellowship after Evening Service this weekend.

(Subscribe to our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/channel/UCjxeX18IKP4grKdqWEt2dgw).

WELCOME & UNISON CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 25)

To you, O God, we lift up our souls. To you we offer our praise and prayer,
our worship and thanksgiving, even our very lives.

Make your ways known to us. Show us the path on which we should walk.

Lead us in your truth and teach us. For you alone are the God who saves,
the God in whom we trust; and the One on whom we wait. Amen.

PSALM 95:1-6 (Scottish Psalter)

O come, let us sing to the LORD:
come, let us every one
A joyful noise make to the Rock
of our salvätion.

Let us before his presence come
with praise and thankful voice;
Let us sing psalms to him with grace,
and make a joyful noise.

For GOD, a great God, and great King,
above all gods he is.
Depths of the earth are in his hand,
the strength of hills is his.

To him the spacious sea belongs,
for he the same did make;
The dry land also from his hands
its form at first did take.

O come, and let us worship him,
let us bow down withal,
And on our knees before the LORD
our Maker let us fall.

Tune: Land of Rest (CM).

*Recorded at the General Assembly Hall
St Columba's Free Church, Edinburgh.*

CHURCH FAMILY UPDATE - PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

This week we pray for our sister churches in **AYR & KILWINNING**, & in **HELMSDALE** (Sutherland). We also pray for **Ann, John, Margaret, Neil and Donald** and all the family of the late **Mr Donald Stewart**, who sadly passed away at home last Monday morning. A funeral was held last Friday.

A VIDEO TESTIMONY – THIS IS RHODA'S STORY

During lockdown many have grown in faith or have come to faith. Rhoda belongs to a St John's a gospel church in the World's End estate in West London. Can you relate to her story? What is your testimony?

HYMN: PRAISE TO THE LORD, THE ALMIGHTY

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of
creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and
salvation!
All you who hear, now to His temple draw near,
Praise Him in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who so fearfully, wondrously
made us;
Shelters us under His wings and so gently sustains
us:
Have you not seen all you have needed has been
Granted because He ordains it?

Praise to the Lord, who does prosper your work
and defend you;
Surely His goodness and mercy will daily attend
you.

Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
If with His love he befriends you.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore
Him!

All that has life and breath, come now with
praises before Him!

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore
Him!

All that has life and breath, come now with
praises before Him!

Let the 'Amen!' sound from His people again -
gladly because we adore Him!

*Words: Joachim Neander (1650-80). Sung by Alana Glover & Abi Marthinet-Payne (Song number 7125857)
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BIBLE READING: TITUS 2:1-10

¹You, however, must teach what is appropriate to sound doctrine. ²Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance. ³Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. ⁴Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, ⁵to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God. ⁶Similarly, encourage the young men to be self-controlled. ⁷In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching show integrity, seriousness ⁸and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us. ⁹Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them, ¹⁰and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Saviour attractive.

SERMON – TITUS 2:1-10 – DO YOU THINK WE'RE ATTRACTIVE?

According to Paul there is nothing more ATTRACTIVE than the lives of Christians being shaped by the sound doctrines of the gospel. Titus was to teach the truth of the gospel to older men and women, younger men and women and slaves. That gospel will make all these groups spiritually healthy and sound. Following the message given to Titus, we now have two tasks: **1). INVITE OTHERS TO DISCOVER A WONDERFUL LIFE.** It is wonderful to form habits like self-control. Pagans may know how to have fun, but there is a far deeper joy that only the followers of Jesus enjoy. Do you want to live life, and to grow old, as an example of attractive Christian living? **2). LIVE OUT THE WONDERFUL LIFE AS GOD'S FAMILY.** Titus is Paul's son in the faith, and the whole church is God's household or family. We can strain our inter-personal relationships by complaints and criticism of others, or we can live out every stage of life in fellowship with Christ and his people. It will take a whole church, with healthy relationships, to raise up the next generation of disciples. Practically this means we must not leave our Bible closed from Sunday to Sunday. We must pray with thankfulness. We must work hard at good habits (like avoiding constant late nights) to strengthen faith.

We must avoid sins that quench the Spirit, and we must always remember that we were saved by Christ (see Titus 3:3-4). Gratitude for our salvation will keep us “attractive” as we grow in the Lord.

UNISON PRAYER

Merciful God, you warn us: ‘There is no one righteous, not even one;
there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God.’

Free us from sin as our master, for we are not under the law, but under your grace.

Help us offer all our mind and body as instruments of righteousness.

In Jesus Christ, our Saviour, pardon all our sin. Teach us to seek you and to delight in all your will for us.
Show us your face in peace. Have mercy upon us for the sake of your Son, in whom we pray. Amen.

HYMN: CHRIST OUR HOPE IN LIFE AND DEATH

What is our hope in life and death?

Christ alone, Christ alone.

What is our only confidence?

That our souls to Him belong.

Who holds our days within His hand?

What comes, apart from His command?

And what will keep us to the end?

The love of Christ, in which we stand.

O sing hallelujah!

Our hope springs eternal

O sing hallelujah!

Now and ever we confess

Christ our hope in life and death.

What truth can calm the troubled soul?

God is good, God is good.

Where is His grace and goodness known?

In our great Redeemer's blood.

Who holds our faith when fears arise?

Who stands above the stormy trial?

Who sends the waves that bring us night

Unto the shore, the rock of Christ?

O sing hallelujah..!

Unto the grave, what will we sing?

"Christ, He lives; Christ, He lives!"

And what reward will heaven bring?

Everlasting life with Him.

There we will rise to meet the Lord.

Then sin and death will be destroyed.

And we will feast in endless joy

When Christ is ours forevermore.

O sing hallelujah..!

Sung by Ann MacRae. Words & Music Keith Getty, Matt Papa. CCL License 616262. CCL Streaming 324811.

BENEDICTION

DIARY, NEWS & PRAYER

IN-PERSON WORSHIP AT THE FREE NORTH: We are delighted to offer in-person worship in our church building on Sunday mornings and some Wednesday evenings. Initially this is limited to 50 persons. Sunday evenings continue to be an online-only service. We will review youth work and consider resuming creche and Sunday School after the October break, but families with children are welcome to come to church. Try to arrive in good time to be shown to your seat by the welcome team. If you need water bring your own water bottle and any books, bibles, or children's toys and materials that you require. The Scottish Government requires the use of facemasks indoors. Worshippers may be seated with other household members or with someone in their social “bubble”. For the first few weeks we plan to divide the congregation **by surname** into **two groups** so that as many as possible may attend. The pattern is Sunday 13th - surnames **A to MacK**. Sunday 20th - surnames **Macl to Z**. This guidance is flexible and is intended to avoid a “booking” system. **Visitors and folk who cannot attend when it is their “turn”** (perhaps because of travel, illness or shift work) **should feel free to attend whenever they can**. We do not wish to exclude

anyone who wishes to attend or to put pressure on anyone to return, for example if they have health concerns. Online worship services will continue to be provided for those worshipping at home or in a cluster of homes. Please do not attend church if you experience any symptoms of Covid-19.

Online Services on Sundays: In addition to an in-person Sunday morning service, an online service will premiere on **YouTube** at 11 am and 7 pm. Subject to the agreement of the Session, from October we are considering **moving the online evening service to 6 pm and only having a Zoom Fellowship twice a month** (one with a speaker and one focussed on Prayer for our City). We are considering having a Zoom only Prayer meeting or HomeGroups on the first and third Wednesdays. There is no Zoom-based fellowship after the evening service tonight (13th). Our Sunday morning teaching series is on **TITUS: STRAIGHTENING OUT GOD'S CHURCH**. Our evening theme is: ***The Next Revival***. Tonight's message is on **2 Chronicles 7:14 – If my people seek my face...** The usual Zoom log-on details can be obtained from Martin (office@freenorthchurch.org).

Tuesday: The Kirk Session will meet online at 7.30 pm (usual Zoom log on).

Wednesday: Our various Home Groups meet online at 7.30 pm to study **Psalm 4**. A central group is available using the usual Zoom log on details.

Our **Congregational Newsletter for September** is now available (as an electronic file or as a paper copy). Thanks to the newsletter editor Murina Anderson and to all contributors.

Download **The Record** at: https://issuu.com/freechurch/docs/the_record-september-20-web

Our mission partner **Philip Amos** (of CWI in North London) will join us for our evening fellowship next Sunday 20th September at 7 pm. Please come to **YouTube** for the fellowship.

Guy's Groups: The next Guys Groups are on Monday 21st September. Read pages 59-74 of Joe Barnard's book *The Way Forward*. **The Scottish & UK Governments now restricted meetings to no more than 6 people from 2 households. It is necessary to hold both the 10.30 am & the 7 pm Guys Groups on Zoom.**

The **Big Free Rally** is online this year on Saturday 26th September. You don't need to have been to FCYC camps to take part – it's open to everyone in P5 upwards!

Emma de Paula's September UCCF Newsletter is now available. Please pray for Emma and for her support.

Free Church Books recommends "*Wherever You Go, I Want You To Know*", a new book ideal for children. See: <https://thefree.church/books-whenever>.

If you need help of any sort, we would love to hear from you. Contact the minister (07 506 006 459; angusmacrae1967@gmail.com), any elder or deacon, or the church office (office@freenorthchurch.org).

Giving to support the Free North: Donate through our website (PayPal logo). To set up a standing order, post a cheque or to arrange for Gift Aid, please contact our congregational treasurer, Mrs Barbara Macphail, 31 Towerhill Avenue, Inverness, IV2 5FX. Tel: 01463 794622. Email: treasurer@freenorthchurch.org.

We welcome development fund donations to support Carrie Marlow, our new **Women's Pastoral Worker**. Please pray for Carrie as she prepares to relocate to Inverness.

Pray that our church family would be a holy people as we live in a world that is not holy and even mocks holiness. Ask the Lord to strengthen our commitment to pursue holiness every day. In this way we will reflect His character to one another and to the world around us.