



# **The Free North Church Inverness**

*a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland*

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## **A GUIDE TO SUNDAY WORSHIP**

### **11 am – Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> 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.*

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This is a guide to our Sunday Morning Service, held live in-person at the Free North Church and broadcast online at 11 am on the Free North YouTube channel. Evening service tonight is on YouTube from 7 pm. From Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October our evening service moves to 6 pm.

Both our Sunday services are available afterwards for catch-up.

(Subscribe to our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/c/FreeNorthChurchInverness](https://youtube.com/c/FreeNorthChurchInverness)).

#### **WELCOME & UNISON CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 111:1-2,4b,9)**

Praise the Lord. I will extol the Lord with all my heart  
in the council of the upright and in the assembly.

Great are the works of the Lord; they are pondered by all who delight in them.

The Lord is gracious and compassionate.

He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever—  
holy and awesome is his name. Amen.

#### **PSALM 23:1-6 (Sing Psalms version)**

The LORD is my shepherd; no want shall I know.  
He makes me lie down where the green pastures  
grow;

He leads me to rest where the calm waters flow.

My wandering steps he brings back to his way,  
In straight paths of righteousness making me  
stay;

And this he has done his great name to display.

Though I walk in death's valley, where darkness is  
near,

Because you are with me, no evil I'll fear;

Your rod and your staff bring me comfort and  
cheer.

In the sight of my en'mies a table you spread.  
The oil of rejoicing you pour on my head;  
My cup overflows and I'm graciously fed.

So surely your covenant mercy and grace  
Will follow me closely in all of my ways;  
I will dwell in the house of the LORD all my days.

*Tune: Tarwathie (11.11.11).*

*Sung by Olivia Ross.*

#### **PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER**

This week we pray for our sister churches in **SLEAT, South Skye & LOCHGILPHEAD, Argyll.**

#### **UPDATE FROM THE MERKINCH CHURCH PLANT**

#### **HYMN: COME, THOU FOUNT**

Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,  
tune my heart to sing thy grace;

Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above;  
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of thy redeeming love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer;  
hither by thy great help I come.  
And I hope, by thy good pleasure,  
safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wand'ring from the fold of God.  
He, to rescue me from danger,  
interposed his precious blood.

O to grace, how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be;  
Let that grace now, like a fetter,  
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
prone to leave the God I love!  
Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it,  
seal it for thy courts above.

*Words: Robert Robinson, 1758  
Sung by the High Free Church Praise Group, Stornoway.  
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### **BIBLE READING: TITUS 3:1-8 (read by Martin MacLean)**

<sup>1</sup> Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, <sup>2</sup> to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone. <sup>3</sup> At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. <sup>4</sup> But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour, <sup>7</sup> so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. <sup>8</sup> This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

### **CHURCH FAMILY UPDATE**

**SERVICE TIMES:** The evening service will move to the new time of 6 pm (online on YouTube) from next Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October. Our Wednesday 7.30 pm Church Night will be online only on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, and available both in-person at the church and online every other Wednesday.

**MANSE:** The church took possession of a new manse at Mingary Crescent, Ness Castle, last Thursday. The minister and family hope to move to their new home on 7<sup>th</sup> October.

### **SERMON – TITUS 3:1-8 – REMEMBER, TO HOPE.**

Do many people in our City ever think of God? If so, do any ever think of God as KIND? Paul insists that Jesus appeared to reveal the kindness and love of God to a deeply unkind world. **1). REMEMBER YOUR UNKIND PAST (1-3).** The description of our old life, lived before meeting Jesus, is deeply unflattering. Paul reminds Titus that we were foolish and enslaved by all kinds of passions and lusts. Along with others, we weave a world in rebellion against God. Our ideas and actions act like a trap that captures and imprisons us. Who can help us to find freedom and hope? **2). REMEMBER YOUR KIND SAVIOUR (4-8).** Although the gospel is uncomfortable, it leads us from the depths of our dark prison-pit up to the heights of God's love. The main verb in verses 4-7 is "he saved us". Jesus steps down into our prison-pit, out of God's sheer kindness. We cannot imagine freedom and help for prisoners coming from Buddha, or from atheism, or from a legalistic form of religion. We can never hope to climb out of the pit of our own selfishness. But the kindness of God caused Jesus to step down INTO the pit, in order to save and pronounce God's saved people as righteous in God's sight. Biblical faith is unique, because it stresses the kindness and grace of

God. The invented 'gods' of the ancient world were selfish and uncaring. But biblical faith is a refusal to panic, as we ask our Saviour to step down into our prison-pit to save us. The real God is really kind! Do you know his kindness? Have you asked for Jesus to save you?

### HYMN: HIS MERCY IS MORE

What love could remember no wrongs we have  
done?  
Omniscient, all knowing, he counts not their sum.  
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore.  
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more.

What patience would wait as we constantly  
roam?  
What father, so tender, is calling us home?  
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor.  
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more.

What riches of kindness he lavished on us.  
His blood was the payment, his life was the cost.  
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford.

Our sins they are many, his mercy is more.

Praise the Lord, His mercy is more.  
Stronger than darkness, new every morn.  
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more.

Praise the Lord His mercy is more.  
Stronger than darkness, new every morn.  
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more.

*Words and Music by Matt Pappa and Mike Boswell.  
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### BENEDICTION

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#### 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. We hope to resume creche and Sunday School after the October break, but families with children are always 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". We divide the congregation **by surname** into **two groups** so that as many as possible may attend. The pattern is Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September - surnames **A to MacK**; Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October - 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. **We have always had some spare capacity through the past month so you will not be taking a place from someone else**. Online worship services will continue to be provided for those worshipping at home or in a social bubble. Please do not attend church if you experience any symptoms of Covid-19.

**Change to Service Times:** See the note above about our evening service moving to 6 pm, from Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October, plus some changes to our online and in-person arrangements for Wednesday Church Nights.

**This Monday:** Presbytery meets online at 7 pm.

**This Wednesday:** A time of prayer and Bible Study at 7.30 pm (in person at the church and on Zoom). The all church Prayer Night on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October will be on Zoom only, breaking into smaller rooms.

Log-on details for our regular Zoom meetings can be obtained from Martin ([office@freenorthchurch.org](mailto:office@freenorthchurch.org)).

Copies of **Explore** daily Bible reading notes are available (for October to December). These can be picked up at church or sent to you. Suggested donation, £3.

Despite the challenges of public health restrictions, we plan some *Invitation Services* over the autumn and winter, so you can invite a friend to church (or invite a friend to online church).

Our **Congregational Newsletter for September** is available (as a file or as a paper copy).

**Emma de Paula's** September UCCF Newsletter is now available. Please pray for Emma.

**Govan Free Church** was planted seven years ago by Rev Norman Mackay and his team in a very deprived and spiritually needy area of Glasgow. Their latest newsletter is available here: [my.flipbookpdf.net/27q7o](http://my.flipbookpdf.net/27q7o).

**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](mailto:angusmacrae1967@gmail.com)), any elder or deacon, or the church office ([office@freenorthchurch.org](mailto:office@freenorthchurch.org)).

The URL for our **YouTube channel** has changed to the clearer: [youtube.com/c/FreeNorthChurchInverness](https://youtube.com/c/FreeNorthChurchInverness).

Pray for the Free North church family, that we might grow in maturity, that we would hold to the truth of Scripture and keep going even when we get weary. Pray that we would grow in devotion to one another, loving well, joyfully serving, giving generously, using our gifts to build up the body.

Pray for Angus as he visits some classes at Millburn Academy on Wednesday.

Pray for Carrie Marlow, as she moves to Inverness this Thursday, and as she starts her pastoral work.

Several people in the church family have important surgeries and clinic visits planned for this week and next week. Pray for God's grace and peace and for strength and healing according to God's will.

As we pray about Covid-19, pray that people will be considering eternal realities and that the Holy Spirit would be working in hearts and minds to bring many to Christ.

Continue to pray for our mission partner Philip Amos. If you want the link to his recent presentation, please request this. The link is not publicly listed on YouTube due to the sensitive nature of his ministry.

Pray with our partners in Merkinch for wisdom to connect and for many doors to open for the gospel.

**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](mailto:treasurer@freenorthchurch.org). We welcome development fund donations to support Carrie Marlow, our new **Women's Pastoral Worker**.