



The Free North Church Inverness

a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland

A GUIDE TO SUNDAY WORSHIP **11 am – Sunday 18th October 2020**

*Sunday services are conducted today at 11 am and 6 pm
by Rev Chris Davidson, Church Planter at Merkinch Free Church.
You can contact our minister Rev Angus MacRae at Tel: (01463) 832616.
Mobile: 07 506 006 459. Email: angusmacrae1967@gmail.com*

This is a guide to our 11 am **Sunday Morning Service**, held live in-person at the Free North Church and broadcast online the Free North YouTube channel.

Note the new earlier time of our **“Sundays at 6”** Evening Service, available only on YouTube.

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

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

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP (from 2 Samuel 22:47-48)

*“The Lord lives, and blessed be my rock,
and exalted be my God, the rock of my salvation.” Amen.*

HYMN: ONLY A HOLY GOD

Who else commands all the hosts of heaven?
Who else could make ev’ry king bow down?
Who else can whisper and darkness trembles?
Only a Holy God.

What other beauty demands such praises?
What other splendour outshines the sun?
What other majesty rules with justice?
Only a Holy God.

Come and behold Him,
The One and the Only.
Cry out, sing holy,

Forever a Holy God.
Come and worship the Holy God.

What other glory consumes like fire?
What other power can raise the dead?
What other name remains undefeated?
Only a Holy God.

Who else could rescue me from my failing?
Who else would offer His only Son?
Who else invites me to call Him Father?
Only a Holy God.
Only my Holy God!

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CONFESSION OF SIN & ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Holy Creator, we confess and acknowledge that you created us in your own image and likeness so that in our whole nature no imperfection could be found. From this dignity and perfection, man and woman have fallen. We have shown ourselves hostile to you, and have made ourselves servants to sin and consequently, death and sin has power and dominion over us all, unless we are reborn from above.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, work this rebirth in us, creating in our hearts the confidence of chosen ones, with assured faith in your promise revealed to us in your Word; by this faith we grasp Christ Jesus with the graces and blessings promised in him. Amen. (From: The Scots Confession, 3.02-3.03).

PRAYER

PSALM 40: 1-4 (Scottish Psalter)

I waited for the Lord my God,
and patiently did bear;
At length to me he did incline
my voice and cry to hear.

He took me from a fearful pit,
and from the miry clay,
And on a rock he set my feet,
establishing my way.

He put a new song in my mouth,

our God to magnify:
Many shall see it, and shall fear,
and on the Lord rely.

O blessed is the man whose trust
upon the Lord relies;
Respecting not the proud, nor such
as turn aside to lies.

*Tune: Ballerma (CM). Recorded at a Scottish Youth
Conference (courtesy of The Psalms Sung project).*

BIBLE READING: ECCLESIASTES 12:1-8 (ESV)

¹ Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, "I have no pleasure in them"; ² before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain, ³ in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those who look through the windows are dimmed, ⁴ and the doors on the street are shut—when the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low— ⁵ they are afraid also of what is high, and terrors are in the way; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along, and desire fails, because man is going to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets— ⁶ before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern, ⁷ and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it. ⁸ Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; all is vanity.

SERMON - REMEMBER OUR CREATOR

Rev Chris Davidson

HYMN: ALL PRAISE TO HIM

All praise to Him, the God of light,
Who formed the mountains by His might.
All praise to Him Who names the stars,
That sing His fame in skies afar.
All praise to Him Who reigns in love,
Who guides the galaxies above,
Yet bends to hear our every prayer
With sovereign pow'r and tender care.

All praise to Him whose love is seen
In Christ the Son, the Servant King,
Who left behind His glorious throne
To pay the ransom for His own.
All praise to Him Who humbly came
To bear our sorrow, sin, and shame,
Who lived to die, Who died to rise,
The all-sufficient sacrifice.

All praise to Him whose pow'r imparts
The love of God within our hearts,
The Spirit of all truth and peace,
The fount of joy and holiness.

To Father, Son, and Spirit now
Our souls we lift, our wills we bow,
To You, the triune God, we raise,
With loving hearts our song of praise!

Based on the hymn, "All Praise to Him Who Built the Hills" by Horatius Bonar (1808-1889). Music and additional words by Matt Merker and Bob Kauflin © 2017 Sovereign Grace Praise, Integrity Music. CCLI # 7096636. CCL License No. 616262. CCL Streaming License No. 324811.

BENEDICTION (from Numbers 6)

EVENING WORSHIP DETAILS – ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL AT 6 PM

Welcome and Call to Worship: Psalm 84:1-4

Hymn: Behold Our God

Prayer

Reading: Numbers 10:33-11:15

Praise: Psalm 23

Sermon by Rev Chris Davidson:

What we need to Survive the Wilderness

Hymn: O Church Arise

Benediction: Jude

WOMEN'S PASTORAL WORKER - CONTACT DETAILS

If you would like to get in touch with Carrie Marlow, the Women's Pastoral Worker, you can contact her by phone on 07583 498782 or email carrie.marlow@freenorthchurch.org. We warmly welcome Carrie to her new role. Please support this role in prayer and by passing on any pastoral needs and referrals.

JOAN & STEWART'S WEDDING

We would like to thank the congregation for their prayers, cards, gifts and best wishes over the last few weeks - we have been really touched by the kindness and generosity shown to us. Our wedding will be on Saturday 24th October at 2 pm in the Free North. Ordinarily we would have invited the congregation to join us at the wedding ceremony but, due to the coronavirus restrictions, we are unable to do so. However, if any are willing to brave the late October weather, it would be lovely to see you before or after the ceremony! Weather permitting, the bridal party will alight in Church Street and walk down the lane to the front doors of church and then at 3 pm we will exit the front doors and walk back up the lane to Church Street. (Joan & Stewart).

PASTORAL

The funeral of the late Mr Martin Jeremiah is at 12:30 pm on Thursday 22nd October at John Fraser & Son Funeral Home, Chapel Street. A private funeral will be held for the late Mrs Marie Rhoda MacLeod on Tuesday 27th October. We send our love and sympathy to both families.

DIARY, NEWS & PRAYER

IN-PERSON WORSHIP AT THE FREE NORTH: We offer in-person worship on Sunday mornings and on some Wednesday evenings. **Families with children are always welcome to come to church (for all or part of the service) and a Sunday School for Primary age children is available in the fellowship area.** 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 present we divide the congregation **by surname** into **two groups** so that as many as possible may attend. The pattern is Sunday 18th October - surnames **Macl to Z**. Sunday 25th October - surnames **A to MacK**. We will review this in November to see if there is a better way to encourage and build up the fellowship life of the congregation. This guidance is flexible and 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 ON ANY SUNDAY THAT THEY CAN, even if it is not their “turn”**. 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. **Please DO NOT attend church if you experience any symptoms of Covid-19.**

This Sunday: The minister is taking this weekend off. We are delighted to welcome Rev Chris Davidson to lead our worship at 11 am and 6 pm. There is no online fellowship tonight.

Tuesday: The Kirk Session will meet (via Zoom) at 7.30 pm to discuss future arrangements for in-person worship and ongoing development of the Merkinch Church plant.

Wednesday: Our various **Home Groups** meet online at 7.30 pm to study **Psalm 16 – A Song For When Sin Seems Good**. A central group is available using the usual Zoom log on details.

Saturday: Joan MacLeod & Stewart Vant’s wedding is at 2 pm (see their note above). We wish them all blessing and the kindness and love of God in their future life together.

Warm congratulations to **Rebekah and Neil Holmes**, who had the joy of welcoming **Mason Thomas** into the family last Monday 12th October. A lovely wee brother for Archie, Innes and Brodie.

Guys Groups Catch-Up Sessions: Chris MacLeod is running catch-up sessions for any who missed earlier studies of Joe Barnard’s book, *The Way Forward*. **Email Martin** at office@freenorthchurch.org for details of **Chris MacLeod’s Zoom meetings**. These will take place on the following dates: Tuesday 20th – 7 pm (pages 59-74); Monday 26th – 11 am (pages 75-86).

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

Do remember that the **clocks change** next Sunday. Enjoy your extra hour!

New Members: We hope to welcome new members into the Free North Church family on Sunday 22nd November. Please contact the minister, any elder, or our women’s pastoral worker if you are a new Christian believer and wish to discuss a commitment to follow Jesus and to belong to his church or if you have moved from a previous church connection and now wish to commit yourself to the Free North church family.

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

Free Church Books’ recommend Edward T. Welch’s ***‘A Student’s Guide to Anxiety’***. Priced £2.54 – read more at: <https://thefree.church/books-anxiety>.

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).

Support the Free North: Donate through our website (PayPal logo), the offering box, or via our treasurer, Mrs Barbara Macphail, 31 Towerhill Avenue, IV2 5FX. (01463 794622, treasurer@freenorthchurch.org).