**You’re the word of God the Father**

You’re the Word of God the Father,

From before the world began;

Every star and every planet

Has been fashioned by Your hand.

All creation holds together

By the power of Your voice:

Let the skies declare Your glory,

Let the land and seas rejoice!

*You’re the Author of creation,*

*You’re the Lord of every man;*

*And Your cry of love rings out*

*Across the lands.*

Yet You left the gaze of angels,

Came to seek and save the lost,

And exchanged the joy of heaven

For the anguish of a cross.

With a prayer You fed the hungry,

With a word You stilled the sea.

Yet how silently You suffered

That the guilty may go free.

*You’re the author….*

With a shout You rose victorious,

Wresting victory from the grave,

And ascended into heaven

Leading captives in Your wake.

Now You stand before the Father

Interceding for Your own.

From each tribe and tongue and nation

You are leading sinners home.

You’re the author…

(CCLI No 3709898)

Interim Moderator: Reverend Gordon Martin 01463 871223

Elders: Ken MacDonald 07895 678496

 Colin MacDonald 01599 522719

 Finlay MacDonald 07445 646444

Assessor Elders: Murdo MacLeod

 Willie Fraser

Finance Committee: Donnie Lamont

 Ronnie Lamont

Safeguarding Co-ordinators: Barbara MacDonald 01599 522719

 Moira Lane 01599 522709

*I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.* ***Psalm 119:10-11***

###### **Free church**

# FREE CHURCH

# GLENELG AND INVERINATE

# WEEKLY BULLETIN

**Sunday 17th December 2023**

**Services at 12.00 noon in Inverinate Hall**

 **and**

**6.00pm in Glenelg Church of Scotland**

**We warmly welcome you to this service of worship and would love you to join us for tea, coffee and refreshments following the service**

*Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, Lord: Repeat them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy.* **Habakkuk 3:2**

**NOTICES**

* **Today’s Services:** We are delighted to welcome Phil Pickett who will lead us in worship at today’s 12.00 noon service in Inverinate with a reading from Psalm 113, a sermon entitled *Exalted, Stooping, Raising*. Following our 12 noon service we will join together for our Christmas Lunch, please do stay and join us if you are able in this time of fellowship as our church family. There will be no evening service in Glenelg as we hope to be attending *Carols at the Castle* at 5.00pm at Eilean Donan Castle.
* **Sunday School:** The older children will leave us for Sunday School during the Inverinate Service and there will be a creche for the very little ones.
* **Praise:**

Hymn (see back page) – *You’re the Word of God the Father*

Sing Psalms 29:1-5, 10-11 (page 34) – *You mighty ones, give to the Lord as his right*

Sing Psalms 8:1-5 (page 7) – *In all the earth, O Lord our Lord*

Sing Psalms 113 (page 151) – *O praise, you servants of the Lord*

* **Carols at the Castle:** This Sunday evening at 5.00pm at Eilean Donan Castle. This is a great outreach opportunity for people to come along and hear the gospel. Please do invite friends and family to come along.
* **Wednesday Evening Bible Studies**: Our Dornie group will meet this coming Wednesday at 7.30pm at Vivienne and Colin MacKenzie’s home and our Glenelg Group will meet at Peter and Moira lanes home, also at 7.30pm. Both groups are studying our Advent Study ‘Comfort and Joy’. Everyone is very welcome to join either group.
* **Online Studies:** Both of our online Study Groups – the Ladies and the Men’s Study Groups – are working through our Advent Bible Study ‘Comfort and Joy’. Study books are still available at the door and if you are interested in joining either group please speak to Moira, Barbara or Colin.
* **Prayer for One Invite Cards:** The Invite Cards are available at the back of the hall. They are for use for all of our Christmas and New Year Services. Please do take as many as you want and pray for a person or people who you would like to invite to any of these services and then use the Invite Card to invite them along.
* The Scottish Government has promised to publish a consultation before the end of the year on ‘ending conversion practices’. A letter has been written by the ‘Let Us Pray Campaign’ to the Equalities Minister, Emma Roddick, expressing serious concerns that the Government’s plans for a ‘conversion therapy’ Bill threaten to criminalise aspects of the ordinary work of churches. Stephen Allison, Public Engagement Coordinator for the Free Church, is one of the lead signatories. They are inviting church leaders, pastoral workers and anyone else in Scotland to sign in support of the letter. Your name and information will not be made public. If you would like to sign, go to: <https://letuspray.uk/take-action/scotland>
* **Christmas and New Year Services:**

**Sunday 24th December**

* 12.00 noon Christmas Eve Service in Inverinate Hall
* 4.30pm Family Christmas Eve Carol Evening in Inverinate Hall

**Sunday 31st December**

* 12.00 noon Hogmanay Service in Inverinate Hall
* 6.00pm short Thanksgiving service of Bible readings and Prayer for the New Year in Glenelg

**Monday 1st January**

* 12.00 noon New Years Day service in Kyle Free Church
* **Free Church Youth Camps 202**4: Registration is open. We hope to run 11 camps next summer, at each camp there will be a variety of activities throughout the week, but the main event is the gospel-centred teaching and evangelism. The camps are open to everyone currently in P5-S6. Full details are available at: freechurchyouthcamps.org. Discounts are available for anyone struggling to fund camp places.
* **Free Church Youth Conference 2024**: Is open for booking. Friday 15th - Sunday 17th March 2024 in Lendrick Muir for 18 – 30 year-olds. Further info and booking can be found on the Free Church website.
* **Praying For One Another:** We urge you to pray for Christians at home and in countries far and wide. Please pray for:

**Poolewe and Aultbea:** As a congregation, we are filled with gratitude for the year of blessings we have experienced. We thank God for the growth in our prayer meetings and for the new faces that have joined us on Sundays. However, we are aware that there are still many in our community who have yet to know the Lord, and we ask for prayer for the ongoing outreach**.** We are excited to have embarked on a renovation project for our church building in Poolewe. The estimated cost of this project is £65,000, and we are trusting in God to provide for this need. We believe that this building can be a powerful tool for reaching out to the community of Poolewe, and we ask for your continued prayers.

**Dunblane:** Please pray for new families to come to our congregation to be part of God's work and give thanks for the new people who have already come along. Pray that they would stay with us.

**Scalpay:** Continues its work and witness with small numbers but occasional encouragements. We were recently joined by another couple from the island who had previously worshipped elsewhere. Give thanks for those who have joined this year both by profession of faith and from other churches. Give thanks for the success and blessing of the monthly Gaelic Psalm Singing Event which draws in people from various different congregations and some who don't attend anywhere. Please pray about the Pastoral Oversight Visit which is due in the opening months of 2024: POV 's can be both encouraging and challenging, so please pray for good preparation and an encouraging visit.