**GLORIOUS THINGS OF THEE ARE SPOKEN**

Glorious things of thee are spoken
Zion, city of our God
He, whose word cannot be broken
Formed thee for His own abode
On the Rock of Ages founded
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded
Thou may'st smile at all thy foes

See, the streams of living waters
Springing from eternal love
Well supply thy sons and daughters
And all fear of want remove
Who can faint, while such a river
Ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace which, like the Lord, the giver
Never fails from age to age

Saviour, if of Zion's city
I, through grace, a member am
Let the world deride or pity
I will glory in Thy name
Fading is the worldling's pleasure
All his boasted pomp and show
Solid joys and lasting treasure
None but Zion's children know

(CCLI No 2645719)

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 31st 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:** Today Ken MacDonald will lead us in worship for our 12.00 noon service in Inverinate with a reading from Romans chapter 8, verses 12 to 27, in a sermon entitled *Everything New*. Our Glenelg Evening Service at 6.00pm in Glenelg Church will be a service of readings and prayer on the theme of *Looking back with thankfulness and looking forward with faith and hope*.
* **Sunday School:** There is no Sunday School this week, but there will be a creche for the little ones and sermon helper sheets for the older children, please make sure you get one!
* **Praise:**

Sing Psalms 123:1-4 then 1-2 again (page 169) *To you, O Lord, I lift my eyes*

Scottish Psalter 116:7-14 (page 396) – *O thou my soul, do thou return*

Sing Psalms 101:1-6 (page 132) – *I’ll praise your love and justice, Lord*

Hymn (see back page) – *Glorious things of Thee are spoken*

* **New Year’s Day Service:** The joint New Year’s Day service on Monday at 12 noon in Kyle Free Church will be an all age service led by Rev Roddie Rankin. There will be a crèche facility for any who may want to use it, and the service will include a kids ’address. There will be tea and coffee and a time of fellowship afterwards.
* **Next Sunday:** Sunday 7th January, Finlay Macdonald will lead us in worship for our 12 noon service and for our evening service we will be starting a new online sermon series in Glenelg Church at 6.00pm.
* **Congregational Accounts:** Copies of the congregational Accounts are available at the door, please take one. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your faithfulness and generosity in giving over this year and for sustaining us to keep reaching out with the gospel and in service to our community. Thank you.
* **Online Studies:** Our Ladies Study Group are starting a Two Year Bible Read Through study, so this would be a really excellent time to join. Our Men’s Study Group are returning to their Bible Read Through and the book of Judges. If you are interested in joining either group please speak to Moira, Barbara or Colin.
* 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>
* **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:
	+ **Pray for our nation**: Over the festive period as people and families gather, pray that many who do not know Christ would have the opportunity to hear the news of a Saviour being born to the world for us. Pray that it will be a time to reflect on the true reason for celebration.
	+ **Buccleuch:** We are considering plans for a children’s club as a way to share the gospel with children in our community and to provide a place our church children can invite friends along. Please pray for our planning, and that God would use his word to change the lives of children and families. Looking to the year ahead, 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.
	+ **Matt and Maria Lingard, Athens:** Please pray for peace over our ministries; whilst it is great to be able to reach more people, there are certain individuals who come who sometimes cause trouble and disrupt things. Things have been better in the last couple of weeks as we’ve been put certain new rules into place, but please pray generally for peace over every day, and wisdom for us and the Church team regarding how to manage such situations.
	+ **New City Church, Dunfermline:** Give thanks for unity during vacancy, pray that congregation and vacancy committee will have wisdom in the process. Provision of a building is an issue in the congregation in the medium future, pray for God's leading in terms of location and provision in finance.
	+ **Healthy Gospel Church:** Pray for our churches - that we’ll be committed to the worship of God and obedience to the Bible. Pray for our churches to continually witness to Christ in our communities.