**O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL**

O come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel

that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, who to Thy tribes on Sinai’s height

in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou rod of Jesse, free Thine own from Satan’s tyranny;

from depths of hell Thy people save and give them victory o’er the grave.

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here;

disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death’s dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou key of David, come and open wide our heavenly home;

make safe the way that leads on high and close the path to misery.

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel

(CCLI No 2678690)

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 24th 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 2 Corinthians chapter 5, verse 1 to chapter 6, verse 2, in a sermon entitled *True Reconciliation*. There will be no evening service in Glenelg as we have our Family Christmas Eve Service this evening at 4.30pm, in Inverinate Hall.
* **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 118:1-9 (page 155) – *O thank the Lord, for he is good*

Sing Psalms 42:1-5 (page 53) – *As pants the deer for flowing streams*

Sing Psalms 139(b):1-6 (page 182) – *Lord you have searched my life*

Hymn (see back page) – *O come, O come Emmanuel*

* **Christmas Greetings:** Our Interim Moderator, Rev Gordon Martin has asked that his best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year be passed on to the congregation and that he very much hopes to see us soon.
* **Next Sunday:** Sunday 31st December, Ken MacDonald will lead us in worship for our 12 noon service and for our evening service there will be a short Thanksgiving and Prayer Service in Glenelg Church at 6.00pm.
* **Congregational Accounts:** Copies of the congregational Accounts were handed out last week, if you did not get a copy, further copies 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.
* **Bethany Christian Trust:** The retiring collection gathered at our Community Advent Carol Service in Glenelg raised £160 and the local Christmas Card Delivery raised £300. So in all, £460 is being sent to the Bethany Christian Trust who work with homeless people in the central belt. Many thanks to all for your generosity.
* **Online Studies:** Both of our online Study Groups – the Ladies and the Men’s Study Groups – are completing our Advent Bible Study ‘Comfort and Joy’. 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>
* **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:
	+ Countries suffering the horror of war and all the devastation it brings. Pray for the peace of God to come and rule.
	+ Individuals and families suffering want, debt, illness, mourning or loneliness this Christmas. Pray for all who bring succour, help and company to those most in need.
	+ Pray that we would remember, this Christmas time and all year round, just how blessed we are in Christ, that God would give His Son for all who will receive Him.