**I CANNOT TELL**

I cannot tell why He, whom angels worship,

 Should set His love upon the sons of men,

Or why, as Shepherd, He should seek the wanderers,

 To bring them back, they know not how or when.

But this I know, that He was born of Mary,

 When Bethlehem’s manger was His only home,

And that He lived at Nazareth and laboured,

 And so the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is come.

I cannot tell how silently He suffered,

 As with His peace He graced this place of tears,

Or how His heart upon the Cross was broken,

 The crown of pain to three and thirty years.

But this I know, He heals the broken-hearted,

 And stays our sin, and calms our lurking fear,

And lifts the burden from the heavy laden,

 For yet the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is here.

I cannot tell how He will win the nations,

 How He will claim His earthly heritage,

How satisfy the needs and aspirations

 Of east and west, of sinner and of sage.

But this I know, all flesh shall see His glory,

 And He shall reap the harvest He has sown,

And some glad day His sun shall shine in splendour

 When He the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is known.

I cannot tell how all the lands shall worship,

 When, at His bidding, every storm is stilled,

Or who can say how great the jubilation

 When all the hearts of men with love are filled.

But this I know, the skies will thrill with rapture,

 And myriad, myriad human voices sing,

And earth to heaven, and heaven to earth, will answer:

 At last the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is King.

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**WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS**

What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry, everything to God in prayer!

O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,

All because we do not carry, everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged, take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our every weakness, take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden, cumbered with a load of care?

Precious Savior, still our refuge - take it to the Lord in prayer;

Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer;

In His arms He’ll take and shield thee, thou wilt find a solace there.

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

# FREE CHURCH

# GLENELG AND INVERINATE

# WEEKLY BULLETIN

**Sunday 7th January 2024**

**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 Finlay MacDonald will lead us in worship for our 12.00 noon service in Inverinate with readings from Habakuk chapters 1 and 2, in a sermon entitled *When God’s plans are not our plans*. At our Glenelg Evening Service at 6.00pm in Glenelg Church will be starting a new online sermon series from Carloway Free Church called *Christian Identity,* led by Rev. Thomas Davis.
* **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 24:7-10 (page 28) *You ancient gates, lift up your heads*

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

Hymn (see back page) – *I cannot tell why He, whom angels worship*

Hymn (see back page) – *What a friend we have in Jesus*

* **Next Sunday:** Sunday 14th January, Ken MacDonald will lead us in worship for our 12 noon service and for our evening service we will continue our online sermon series in Glenelg Church at 6.00pm.
* **Church Welcomers:** Would anyone like to be added to the door welcoming team to meet and greet people as they arrive at church? We would love to have more people on the team, so if you feel that you would like to serve the church family in this way, please speak to Mairi Scobie and join the rota.
* **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 have just started a Two Year Bible Read Through study, so there is still time to join in. Our Men’s Study Group are continuing their Bible Read Through and starting the book of Ruth. If you are interested in joining either group please speak to Moira, Barbara or Colin.
* **Central Office Vacancy: Finance Administrator (Maternity Leave Cover):** We are advertising for a Finance Administrator to provide Maternity Leave Cover from mid-February 2024. This is an important role as part of the finance team, with a particular focus on Gift Aid and Payroll. More information can be found on our website: [www.freechurch.org/vacancy-finance-administrator](http://www.freechurch.org/vacancy-finance-administrator) Please join us in praying for God’s provision of the right person.
* **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: [www.freechurchyouthcamps.org](http://www.freechurchyouthcamps.org) Discounts are available for anyone struggling to fund camp places.
* **FCYC Team Leader Needed:** We are still looking for a Team Leader for our Renfrew Girls Camp. If you are interested in applying or for more info, please get in touch with Donald Macleod (donald.macleod@freechurch.org) or Mairi Beaton (mairi.beaton@freechurch.org).
* **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:
	+ **Grace Church Montrose:** We are working through a series in Ezekiel over the first few months of this year. Pray for us that we would behold the holiness of God and our own holiness would grow.
	+ **Carloway:** Please give thanks for the recent renovation work that has been done on our church building. We are so thankful to God for his provision. Please pray that we would use our building to its full potential for discipleship and evangelism. Please give thanks for our partnership with Carloway Church of Scotland. We have a joint Sunday school and several joint events throughout the year. Please pray for Rev Duncan Macaskill and our brothers and sisters in Carloway CofS and pray too that our partnership would be a powerful witness to our community.
	+ **Healthy Gospel Church:** Pray that God will move us by his Holy Spirit, that we might be growing in our own relationship with God, and that as churches we would be helping others grow in spiritual health.
	+ **OMF, Southeast Asia:** Pray that Christian families living in Muslim communities will demonstrate loving relationships where men and women, elderly and children can all thrive. Give thanks for the people God calls to go and work in the Muslim communities of Southeast Asia. We pray that they can build good relationships where they live and for good cross-cultural communication.
	+ **Grace Church Montrose:** Just 15 minutes drive from here is Brechin which has a population of over 7,000 people. Yet there is no evangelical church. Join with us as we pray for a healthy gospel church to be established there.
	+ **Ministers in Training:** Please continue to pray for the Ministers in Training who are located across the Free Church. Pray for them as they try to balance the various demands on their time as we move into 2024. Please also continue to pray for more men who are considering full time ministry to come forward and begin their journey into ministry.