

## Church Bulletin

We are a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland. We gather each Lord's Day to praise and worship the only true and living God.

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2022**



### SUNDAY SERVICES

We gather for public worship this Lord's Day at 12.00noon and at 6.00pm. Both the services will be conducted in English and taken by the Minister. More details on the Congregation and our ministry are available on our website [here](#).

#### Services this Sunday

The **Sacrament of the Lord's Supper** will be observed and dispensed at the 12.00noon service. Guidelines and details as to how the Sacrament will be dispensed are found below.

The sermon for the 12.00noon service will be based on Psalm 22:1-21. The subject of the sermon will be '*Jesus & The Meditation of the Cross.*'

The sermon for the 6.00pm service will be based on Romans 8:1-4. The subject of the sermon will be '*Jesus & The Freedom of the Cross.*'

#### Psalm Singing

The praise will be led by our precentor and the Psalms for this Lord's Day are as follows:

	12.00 Noon Service		6.00pm Service	
1	Psalm 21:1-6	Psalter (225)	Psalm 107:1-8	Psalter (382)
2	Psalm 24:7-10	Psalter (230)	Psalm 97:8-12	Psalter (360)
3	Psalm 118:15-23	Psalter (398)	Psalm 92(a):8-15	Sing Psalms (122)
4	Psalm 72:17-19	Psalter (314)		

#### Audio-visual Equipment

We regret that we are experiencing problems with the audio-visual equipment in the Church since last weekend. This may be related to the lightning strikes during the week but so far we haven't managed to pin-point the problem. This means that we will not be able to livestream our services this Lord's Day and nor will we be able to record video of the services.

#### English Services

The English services in the Church at 12.00noon and 6.00pm will be available on Sermon Audio as soon as possible after the services end. The services can be accessed on the Shawbost Free Church **Sermon Audio Page** by clicking [here](#).

#### Gaelic Service

A pre-recorded audio-only recording of the Gaelic service will be available at 12.00noon on Sunday on the Shawbost Free Church Sermon Audio Page. The audio-only recording of the Gaelic Service will also be available on the Twilio service, accessed by dialling 0131 510 2471.

### COVID RESTRICTIONS

We continue to observe the one-metre physical distancing in our services to help allay people's anxieties in public gatherings in the light of the ongoing presence of the COVID-19. We note the revision of the Scottish Government guidelines due to come into effect on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February and Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

We note especially the announcement that 'current legal requirements on the use of face coverings, the collection of customer details for contact tracing purposes, and for businesses, service providers and places of worship to have regard to guidance on Covid and to take reasonably practicable measures set out in the guidance are expected to be lifted on 21 March, subject to the state of the pandemic'. We await a further statement on this change in due course.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School will meet this Lord's Day as usual. The children will leave the service after the opening prayer and during the second item of praise. They will return to the Church around 12.50pm to observe the Sacrament with their parents. We pray that the Sacrament would be blessed to them as they watch proceedings and hear the message of God's Word.

## **PRAYER MEETING & BIBLE STUDY**

The weekly Prayer and Bible Study meeting will take place in the Church at 7.00pm this Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022. We will continue with our study of the Epistle of James with a focus on James 4:13-17 and 'The Test of Wealth.' In line with the revised practice for the Lord's Day services, we continue to observe the one-metre physical distancing but will no longer take a register of those attending the meeting.

## **SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER – GUIDANCE**

The Kirk Session carried out all the necessary preparations for the Sacrament on Saturday afternoon and did so following all public health guidelines when preparing the bread and the wine.

### **Arrangements for the Sacrament**

Due to the current COVID-19 Scottish Government restrictions, and the ongoing transmissibility of the virus, the arrangement for the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be as follows.

#### **Communion Tokens**

It is customary to distributed Communion Tokens to intending communicant. Tokens will not be used or distributed on this occasion. The front section on both sides of the Church will be reserved for the Lord's Table. Intending Communicants will be ushered to their seats on entrance to the service.

#### **Individual, Disposable Cups**

We will also depart from the usual custom as far as dispensing the Sacrament, and distributing the elements, is concerned. The Common Cup will be placed on the table from which the Sacrament is dispensed. We will use individual, disposable cups for the elements. The Elder will serve the Table with the use of two sets of Communion Trays with individual cups. The first Tray will have individual cups with a piece of bread for each communicant. The second Tray will have individual cups with the communion wine for each communicant.

#### **Dispensing the Sacrament**

We will keep a clear row (pew) between intending Communicants. The Elders will use this row to bring the bread and the wine to Communicants – there will be no passing of the communion tray between persons in the pew. Communicants are encouraged to hold on to the two empty disposable cups until the Elders return to collect them with a basket.

## **COMMUNION ROLL**

The Kirk Session is pleased to announce that Tam Maclennan (31 North Shawbost) was received into the communicant membership of the congregation with the transference of his membership certificate from Stornoway. We rejoice to see children brought up in the congregation coming to put their faith in the Lord Jesus and adding to the witness of Christ in the community. We pray God's blessing on Tam and his family.

## **PRAYER FOR UKRAINE**

We continue to pray for the deepening crisis in Ukraine with the invasion of Russian armed forces. Rev. Neil MacMillan, Moderator of the 2021 General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland, said: "As Christians, we are deeply saddened by the news of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. This is a terrible time for the Ukrainian people and these events are of great concern to all of us. Let us all call on God in prayer to ask that the hostilities would end swiftly, and that God will protect the people of Ukraine caught up in an unwanted war. We are in touch with Christians in Ukraine and Russia, and we pray that God will watch over the Church in both nations and allow her to hold out the peace and hope of the gospel with great boldness amidst such awful events."

## **PFOA – PRAYER POINTS**

The following are prayer points issued by the Mission Board under the Praying For One Another Scheme (PFOA) in the past week.

### **Covenant Church Newmilns**

The shifting sands of the past two years have left us feeling like we're just treading water and keeping afloat. Please pray for wisdom for the session, development group and congregation as we consider what it will look like to regain some momentum and to be a healthy church in and for our community.

Our normal meeting hall has been closed for a very long time for refurbishment, rekindling a desire for a more permanent home of our own. Please pray for wisdom as we look for suitable property to purchase (and for more rapid progress from the council refurbishment team in the meantime!)

### **Something for Romania**

In answer to prayer a new mayor and pastor have come to Almasu a village near to Huedin where Diakonia had a work point which had been suspended due to lack of funding. These two individuals have ensured that the funding has been restored and the work point is now functioning once more. May God have glory and praise

### **Cumbernauld**

Please pray for our leadership team during this time of vacancy, and for the Interim Moderator, Rev. Ivor MacDonald, Coatbridge, as we go about filling this vacancy with the man of God's choice. Pray for those who supply, and the elders who take Prayer Meetings and some evening services.

We are thankful that most of our activities have restarted after the disruption of the past 2 years. Please pray for our community Kids' Club on Fridays, and for an adequate number of helpers, and the Babies & Toddler group which is now attracting some from the local area. We are also continuing the refurbishment of the building - pray for required funding. Pray too for outreach to youth in the surrounding scheme.

### **Dumisani Theological Institute**

Please pray for Rev. Stephen Choi as he lectures at Dumisani Theological Institute in Term One. We value Rev. Choi's connection to Dumisani now over several years. May he find blessings as he labours at Dumisani and may the interactions with students prove most beneficial. Pray for Rev. Luan Goosen as he lectures term one at Dumisani in the Eastern Cape province of South Africa in the Certificate programme. Pray also for Rev. Goosen as he travels and ministers extensively all over the Eastern Cape doing workshops.