



**Free Church
of St Andrews**

Sunday Morning – 7th December 2025

Welcome to St Andrews Free Church! This morning Paul Clarke will speak on 1 Corinthians 10:1–22.

Who has held the oceans in his hands?

Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at his voice,
all creation rises to rejoice.

*Behold our God seated on his throne;
come, let us adore him.*

*Behold our King – nothing can compare;
come, let us adore him.*

Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of his words?
Who can teach the One who knows all things?
Who can fathom all his wondrous deeds?
Behold our God...

Who has felt the nails upon his hands
bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal, humbled to the grave;
Jesus, Saviour, risen now to reign.
Behold our God...

"Behold Our God" Jonathan Baird, Meghan Baird, Ryan Baird,
and Stephen Altrogge
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Holy and merciful God,
in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings,
and our offences against you.
You alone know how often we have sinned
in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love.
Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry
for all we have done to displease you.
Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light and walk in your ways,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

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Faith Alive Christian Resources.

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not,
as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness, great is thy faithfulness,
morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand has provided –
great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
Great is thy faithfulness...

Pardon for sin, and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow –
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
Great is thy faithfulness...

Thomas Obadiah Chisholm (1866–1960)
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Reading: Exodus 32:1–10 (page 72)

Notices

Christmas Events

Christmas Carol Services – Sunday 7th December, 5 & 7:30pm – Invite others along for this seasonal opportunity to proclaim the good news of Jesus.

Just Join In Nativity – Sunday 14th December at 3pm in the Halls. Come dressed as your favourite nativity character and help us bring the Christmas story to life as we meet the baby at its centre and discover the joy and hope Jesus brings today.

Find digital flyers for both these events to share with others [here](#).

1) During the week – LifeGroups continue as normal, while Friday Fellowship has concluded for the year. Evergreens meets at the different venue of 10 Doocot Road at 2pm this Tuesday. Contact church@standrewsfreechurch for info about our regular bible studies.

2) Lord's Supper – During the morning service next Sunday (14th December).

3) Christmas Open House – 5:30–7:30pm at 1 Dempster Terrace on Wednesday 17th December. Please come with savoury festive nibbles (ideally not mince pies).

4) Christmas Hospitality – If you or anyone you know is on their own in St Andrews at Christmas, or if you would be willing to host someone, please let Stephen know (stephen@standrewsfreechurch.co.uk).

5) New Testament Reading Plan 2026 – There are many excellent ways to read the Bible daily, but if you would like something to do with others this year, join us in a simple New Testament Reading Plan. We'll read one chapter each weekday and take one verse, one reflection and one short prayer into the day. More details to come.

6) December and January Services – We will return to two morning services at the beginning of February. There will be a Christmas Day service at 10:30am in the Halls together with other churches in St Andrews. Evening services will not take place on 28th December and 4th January.

7) Giving – You can support the work of the church financially by electronic bank transfer, by contactless payment after the service or by clicking [here](#). Our bank details are – A/c name: St Andrews Free COS; S/c: 80-09-55; A/c no: 00295283. If you would wish to make a contribution towards the Assistant Minister fund, you are making a sizeable donation or you are eligible for Gift Aid, please email treasurer@standrewsfreechurch.co.uk

Children leave for Crèche, Scramblers and Sunday School

Prayer

Psalm 115

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| 1 LORD, not to us, O not to us —
to your name be the praise,
Because your love and faithfulness
endure, O LORD, always. | 6 Their noses have no sense of smell;
their ears can hear no sound. |
| 2 Why do the nations question us?
“Where is their God?” they say. | 7 They have no feeling in their hands,
nor can they walk around. |
| 3 Our God inhabits heaven high
and over all holds sway. | 9 O house of Isr’el, place your trust
upon the LORD alone;
He is the mighty help and shield
of all who are his own. |
| 4 Their gold and silver images
are crafted carefully, | 18 But we extol the LORD on high,
his majesty proclaim. |
| 5 But they have mouths which cannot speak,
and eyes which cannot see. | Both now and evermore exalt
and praise his holy name! |

Reading and Sermon: 1 Corinthians 9:24–10:22 (page 957)

1 Corinthians 9:24–10:22

Intro: A perishable crown

1) Watch your step (verses 1–12)

i) The privileges of redemption (verses 1–4)

ii) The peril of sinful cravings (verses 5–12)

Idolatry, immorality, testing and grumbling

See Exodus 32; Numbers 25; Numbers 14 & 21

2) Flee from idolatry (verses 13–22)

i) God is faithful

ii) God is jealous

Conclusion: Double-dipping?

Psalm 86

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|---|---|
| 3 Lord, be merciful to me;
All day long to you I call. | 8 Lord, among the many gods
There is none to rival you;
Deeds that others may perform
Never match what you can do. |
| 4 Give your servant joy, O Lord,
For to you I lift my soul. | |
| 5 You, O Lord, alone are good;
You are ready to forgive.
To all those who call on you,
You abound in steadfast love. | 11 Teach me, LORD, your way, that I
From your truth may not depart;
So that I may fear your name,
Give me a devoted heart. |

When I fear my faith will fail,
Christ will hold me fast.
When the tempter would prevail,
he will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold
through life's fearful path.
For my love is often cold,
he must hold me fast.

He will hold me fast!
He will hold me fast!
For my Saviour loves me so,
He will hold me fast!

Those he saves are his delight,
Christ will hold me fast.
Precious in his holy sight,
he will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost,
his promises shall last.
Bought by him at such a cost,
he will hold me fast.
He will hold me fast...

For my life he bled and died,
Christ will hold me fast.
Justice has been satisfied,
he will hold me fast.
Raised with him to endless life,
he will hold me fast,
till our faith is turned to sight
when he comes at last.
He will hold me fast...

"He Will Hold Me Fast" Ada Ruth Habershon,
Matthew Merker

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Join us for our carol services at 5pm & 7:30pm this evening.

Next week's services:

10:30am: 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1

6pm: Luke 1:46-56

Website: www.standrewsfreechurch.co.uk

Senior Minister: Rev. Paul Clarke paul@standrewsfreechurch.co.uk

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