



**Free Church
of St Andrews**

Evening Service – 21st December 2025

Welcome to St Andrews Free Church! This evening Tim McKee will speak on Luke 1:67–80.

The first Noël, Earth and Heaven embraced

As a virgin beheld her new born babe
From realms on high to a manger on Earth
Salvation had dawned in a lowly birth.

Noël, Noël, Noël, Noël

Born is the King of Israel.

The Son of God, in kindness He came
As a friend to the hopeless, the lost, and the lame
Our sins He bore yet His name we despised
And the hands that brought healing were pierced as He died.

Noël, Noël, Noël, Noël

Born is the King of Israel.

The Author of Life, there lifeless He lay
As the grave cast its shadow and darkness reigned
Then out of death broke forth a great light
As He rose up in victory, the glorious Christ.

Noël, Noël, Noël, Noël

Born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That has made Heaven and Earth of nought,
And with his blood mankind has bought.

Noël, Noël, Noël, Noël

Born is the King of Israel.

O Father,
we are gathered before you, the Maker of Heaven and Earth,
whose chosen dwelling place is with the broken and contrite,
to confess that we have sinned in thought and word and deed;
we have not loved you with all our heart and soul,
we have not loved you with all our mind and strength;
we have not even loved our neighbour as ourselves.
Purge us from selfishness,
the fear of man, and the love of praise.
In your mercy, deepen our sorrow for the wrong we have done
and for the good we have left undone,
so that we may truly hate our sin.
But, please Father, do not leave us in sorrow.
With you, O Lord, there is forgiveness.
In your mercy, restore the joy of our salvation;
so that we may love you with a holy love.
In Jesus' name,
Amen.

Psalm 103

- 1 Praise God, my soul! With all my heart
Let me exalt his holy name.
- 2 Forget not all his benefits;
His praise, my soul, in song proclaim.
- 3 The LORD forgives you all your sins,
And heals your sickness and distress;
- 4 Your life he rescues from the grave,
And crowns you in his tenderness.
- 8 The LORD is merciful and kind,
To anger slow, and full of grace.
- 9 He will not constantly reprove,
Or in his anger hide his face.
- 10 He does not punish our misdeeds,
Or give our sins their just reward.
- 11 How great his love—as high as heaven
Towards all those who fear the LORD!
- 12 As far as east is from the west,
So far his love has borne away
Our many sins and trespasses
And all the guilt that on us lay.
- 13 Just as a father loves his child,
So God loves those who fear his name.
- 14 For he remembers we are dust,
And well he knows our feeble frame.

Reading: Luke 1:5–25, 57–66 (page 855)

Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory
are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Notices

1) Thanksgiving Service for David Weekes – 12pm tomorrow (22nd December) at St Andrew's Episcopal Church on Queen's Terrace, followed by refreshments. All in the church family are welcome.

2) December and January Services – 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. We will return to two morning services at the beginning of February.

3) 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).

4) 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. Click [here](#) to download the plan.

5) 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

By faith we see the hand of God

in the light of creation's grand design,
in the lives of those
who prove his faithfulness,
who walk by faith and not by sight.

By faith our fathers roamed the earth
with the power of his
promise in their hearts;
of a holy city built by God's own hand,
a place where peace and justice reign.

*We will stand as children of the promise.
We will fix our eyes on him our soul's reward.
'Til the race is finished and the work is done:
we'll walk by faith and not by sight.*

By faith the prophets saw a day
when the longed-for Messiah would appear,
with the power to break
the chains of sin and death,
and rise triumphant from the grave.

By faith the church was called to go
in the power of the Spirit to the lost;
to deliver captives and to preach good news
in every corner of the earth.

We will stand as children of the promise...

By faith this mountain shall be moved
and the power of the gospel shall prevail;
for we know in Christ all things are possible
for all who call upon his name.

We will stand as children of the promise...

"By Faith" Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend
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Luke 1:67–80

Introduction: What brings you to song?

The Lord's long promised salvation has finally come! (verses 72–73)

- **Jesus' arrival fulfils covenant promises**
- **God's people, in His place, under His ruling presence**

Certain trust leads to praise-filled service!

- **Deliverance that leads to service (verses 71 & 74–75)**
- **Fulfilment that leads to certainty (verses 70 & 76)**
- **Forgiveness that leads to praise (verses 68–69 & 77–79)**

Conclusion: Believe. Serve. Praise.

All praise to him, the God of light,
who formed the mountains by his might.
All praise to him who names the stars,
that sing his fame in skies afar.
All praise to him who reigns in love,
who guides the galaxies above.
yet bends to hear our every prayer
with sovereign pow'r and tender care.

All praise to him whose love is seen,
in Christ the Son, the Servant King;
who left behind his glorious throne
to pay the ransom for his own.
All praise to him who humbly came
to bear our sorrow, sin, and shame,
who lived to die, who died to rise;
the all-sufficient sacrifice.

All praise to him whose pow'r imparts
the love of God within our hearts;
the Spirit of all truth and peace,
the fount of joy and holiness.
To Father, Son, and Spirit now
our souls we lift, our wills we bow
to you, the triune God, we raise,
with loving hearts our song of praise.

"All Praise To Him" Bob Kauflin, Matt Merker
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Next week's services:

Christmas Day, 10:30am

28th December, 10:30am: Luke 2:21-40

Website: www.standrewsfreechurch.co.uk

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

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