



**Free Church
of St Andrews**

All-Age Service – 21st December 2025

Welcome to St Andrews Free Church! This morning John MacPherson will speak on Matthew 1:18–25.

Isaiah 9

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| 1 The people who in darkness walked
have seen a glorious light,
For light has dawned on those who lived
in shadow of the night. | 3 Called Wonderful and Counsellor,
Almighty God is he;
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace
his name will ever be. |
| 2 Because to us a child is born,
to us a son is given
And on his shoulders he will bear
the rule of earth and heaven. | 4 Long will he rule on David's throne,
his kingdom will increase
without an end, and he will bring
an everlasting peace. |

Sing Scripture, 2nd Edition
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| 1 O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him,
born the King of angels.
<i>O come, let us adore him,</i>
<i>O come, let us adore him,</i>
<i>O come, let us adore him,</i>
<i>Christ the Lord.</i> | 3 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
"Glory to God
in the highest".
<i>O come, let us adore him...</i> |
| 2 God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created.
<i>O come, let us adore him...</i> | 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born of virgin mother.
Jesus, to thee be glory given,
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing.
<i>O come, let us adore him...</i> |

Latin, 18th century
tr. Frederick Oakley (1802–1880)

**Our Father in heaven,
we confess that we have done many things we should have left undone,
and failed to do many things you have commanded.
Forgive our sins and have mercy on us, we pray.
And help us to seek first your kingdom and your righteousness.
In Jesus' name, Amen.**

**Away in a manger,
no crib for a bed,
The baby king Jesus laid
down his sweet head.
The stars he created
looked down where he lay,
The maker of all things,
asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing,
our saviour awakes,
Our frailty he shows
in the crying he makes.
Displaying his Glory,
though weak and so small,
His life was an offering,
a gift to us all.**

**Be near us Lord Jesus,
you promised to stay,
Close by us forever,
work in us today.
Forgive us and free us
to live by your grace,
That we might adore you,
today and always.**

Reading: Micah 5:2–5a (page 779)

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

Come behold the wondrous mystery

in the dawning of the King.
He the theme of heaven's praises,
robed in frail humanity.
In our longing, in our darkness,
now the light of life has come!
Look to Christ, who condescended,
took on flesh to ransom us.

Come behold the wondrous mystery:
he the perfect Son of Man,
in his living, in his suffering,
never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam
come to save the hell-bound man;
Christ, the great and sure fulfilment
of the Law – in him we stand.

Come behold the wondrous mystery:
Christ the Lord upon the tree!
In the stead of ruined sinners
hangs the Lamb in victory!
See the price of our redemption,
see the Father's plan unfold,
bringing many sons to glory;
grace unmeasured, love untold.

Come behold the wondrous mystery:
slain by death the God of life.
But no grave could e'er restrain him;
praise the Lord, he is alive!
What a foretaste of deliverance!
How unwavering our hope!
Christ in power resurrected,
as we will be when he comes.

Matt Boswell, Michael Bleecker, Matt Papa
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Reading and Sermon: Matthew 1:18–25 (page 808)

Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

Let Earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room
and Heaven and nature sing,
and Heaven and nature sing,
and Heaven, and Heaven and nature sing!

Joy to the Earth, the Saviour reigns!
Your sweetest songs employ,
while fields and streams
and hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make
His blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
the wonders of his love,
the wonders of his love,
the wonders, the wonders of his love.

Isaac Watts (1674–1748)

This evening's sermon passage is Luke 1:67–80.

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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