



St Andrews
FREECHURCH

Sunday Morning – 22nd December 2024

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

Isaiah 9

1 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.

2 Called Wonderful and Counsellor,
Almighty God is he;
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace
his name will ever be.

3 Long will he rule on David's throne,
his kingdom will increase
Without an end, and he will bring
an everlasting peace.

4 With justice and with righteousness
his reign he will fulfil;
The LORD Almighty in his zeal
will carry out his will.

Sing Scripture, Third Edition, 2015
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1 **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.

2 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.

3 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.

4 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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Notices

1) Christmas Services – Join us for a Christmas Day service in the Halls at 10:30am, together with other churches in town. There will be no evening services on 29th December and 5th January.

2) Hope Explored – A three-week series which provides an introduction to the Christian faith and explores the topics of hope, peace and purpose in life, starting in January. Click [here](#) to find out more and to express an interest.

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) During the week – LifeGroups and Friday Fellowship have concluded for the year. Talk to a member of staff or send an email to [church@standrewsfreechurch](mailto:church@standrewsfreechurch.co.uk) for more info about our regular bible studies.

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 are eligible for Gift Aid, please email (treasurer@standrewsfreechurch.co.uk)

Children Leave for Sunday School

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry,
too real to hide, and too deep for us to undo. Please forgive us.
Set us free from a past that we cannot change;
open to us a future in which we can be changed;
and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

Psalm 45

- 1 A noble theme inspires my heart
with verses for the king;
My tongue's a skilful writer's pen,
composing lines to sing.
- 2 You far excel the best of men;
your lips are full of grace,
For God has blessed you evermore;
his light shines on your face.
- 6 Your royal throne, O God, will last
throughout eternity;
Your kingdom's sceptre will be one
of truth and equity.
- 7 Anointing you with oil of joy,
your God has made you great,
Because you care for righteousness,
and wickedness you hate.
- 11 Because your beauty is so great,
the king is held in thrall.
He is your lord; give him respect,
before him humbly fall.

Reading and Sermon: Matthew 1:18–25 (page 807)

Matthew 1:18-25

- **A birth like no other**

- **A baby like no other**

O come, all you unfaithful

Come, weak and unstable
Come, know you are not alone.

O come, barren and waiting ones
Weary of praying, come
See what your God has done.

*Christ is born, Christ is born
Christ is born for you.*

O come, bitter and broken
Come with fears unspoken
Come, taste of His perfect love.

O come, guilty and hiding ones
There is no need to run
See what your God has done.
Christ is born, Christ is born...

He's the Lamb who was given
Slain for our pardon
His promise is peace
For those who believe.

So come, though you have nothing
Come, He is the offering
Come, see what your God has done.
Christ is born, Christ is born...

Music and words by Bob Kauflin and Lisa Clow
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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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This evening's sermon passage is Revelation 22:6-21 .

Next week's services:

25th December, 10:30am: John 3:16

29th December, 10.30am: Proverbs 3:1-12

Website: www.standrewsfreechurch.co.uk

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

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