Morning Service – 15th March 2026

Welcome to St Andrews Free Church! This morning Paul Clarke will speak on Matthew 18:21-35.

Psalm 32

1 Sins forgiven! What a blessing!
What a joy to hear this word!
When my sin is fully covered,
2 Cancelled by my gracious Lord!
Now I live a lie no longer;
Never has such news been heard!

3 When I sat and groaned in silence
All day long, my bones decayed;
Your great hand lay sore upon me,
4 Through the night and every day.
Just like in the heat of summer,
All my strength was sapped away.

5 Then I brought my sin before You;
I could hide that wrong no more.
I determined to confess, and
Bring my guilt to heaven's door.
What a blessing! God forgave me!
Now I bear that guilt no more.

6 Now let all the godly pray, and
Seek You while You may be found.
When the mighty waters threaten,
They will stand on solid ground.
7 You will hide me and protect me;
Rescue songs will then abound.

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What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus!
Oh, precious is the flow,
that makes me white as snow!
No other fount I know,
nothing but the blood of Jesus!

For my pardon this I see,
nothing but the blood of Jesus;
for my cleansing, this my plea:
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Oh, precious is the flow...

Nothing can for sin atone,
nothing but the blood of Jesus;
naught of good that I have done,
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Oh, precious is the flow...

This is all my hope and peace,
nothing but the blood of Jesus;
this is all my righteousness,
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Oh, precious is the flow...

Robert Lowry (1826-1899)

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants
give you our humble and heartfelt
thanks for all your goodness and
loving-kindness to us and all mankind.
We praise you for our creation,
preservation and all the blessings
of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable
love in the redemption of the world
by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace
and for the hope of glory.

We pray that you will give us
such an awareness of your
goodness that our hearts may be
truly thankful and that we may
declare your praise not only with
our lips but in our lives, by giving
ourselves in your service and by
walking before you in holiness and
righteousness all our days.
All honour be to you, Father, Son
and Holy Spirit, now and through
all eternity.
Amen.

Reading: 1 John 1:5-2:2 (page 1021)

What love could remember no wrongs we have done?
Omniscient, all-knowing, he counts not their sum.
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore;
our sins they are many, his mercy is more.

Praise the Lord! His mercy is more!
Stronger than darkness, new every morn;
our sins they are many, his mercy is more.

What patience would wait as we constantly roam?
What Father, so tender, is calling us home?
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor;
our sins they are many, his mercy is more.
Praise the Lord...

What riches of kindness he lavished on us!
His blood was the payment; his life was the cost.
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford;
our sins they are many, his mercy is more.
Praise the Lord...

Matt Boswell, Matt Papa
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Notices

Children leave for Crèche, Scramblers and Sunday School (9:30 service)

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.

I hear the Saviour say,
"Thy strength indeed is small;
child of weakness watch and pray,
find in me thine all in all."

Jesus paid it all,
All to him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.

For nothing good have I
Whereby thy grace to claim;
I'll wash my garments white
In the blood of Calv'ry's lamb.
Jesus paid it all...

And now complete in him,
My robe his righteousness,
Close sheltered 'neath his side,
I am divinely blessed.
Jesus paid it all...

Oh praise the One who paid my debt,
And raised this life up from the dead!
[x4]

And when before the throne
I stand in him complete,
'Jesus died my soul to save',
My lips shall still repeat.
Jesus paid it all...

Elvina Mabel Hall, John Thomas Grape

Reading and Sermon: Matthew 18:21–35 (page 823)

Matthew 18:21-35

Intro: Forgiveness

1) The power to forgive springs from a forgiven heart

i) Our deep need

ii) His great mercy

- Your forgiveness is a fact not a feeling
- Your forgiveness cost Christ everything
- Your forgiveness is forever

2) The failure to forgive suggests an unforgiven heart

Conclusion: Imagine...

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my path, thou hast taught me to say:
'It is well, it is well with my soul'.
It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control:
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed his own blood for my soul.
It is well with my soul...

My sin – oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole,
is nailed to the cross,
and I bear it no more,
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
It is well with my soul....

O Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend;
even so, it is well with my soul.
It is well with my soul...

Horatio G. Spafford (1828-88)

This evening's sermon passage is Isaiah 10:5-34.

Next week's services:
9:30 & 11:30am: 2 Corinthians 8:1-9
6pm: Isaiah 11:1-12:6

Website: www.standrewsfreechurch.co.uk
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A Passion for Life Events

Did Darwin displace God? – Join us at 7:30pm on Wednesday 18th March at St Mark's Parish Church for an evening with Professor Richard Buggs, an evolutionary biologist, as he explains the scientific evidence for God and why evolution does not explain it away. His talk will be followed by a Q&A.

Guest Services

29th March	9:30 & 11:30am | Seeking Purpose	6pm | Seeking Freedom
5th April	9:30 & 11:30am | Seeking Hope	6pm | Seeking Security

Hope Explored – A three-week introduction to the Christian faith beginning on 13th April, exploring the topics of hope, peace and purpose in life. Click here to sign up and here for flyers of all these events to share with others.

1) During the week – Thursday LifeGroups and Friday Fellowship continue as normal. There will be no Wednesday LifeGroups due to the event above. Email church@standrewsfreechurch.co.uk for more info about our weekly bible studies.

2) AGM – Between the two morning services on 22nd March, we will hold our AGM at which the Church's 2025 accounts will be presented. The meeting will start at 11am and will last for around 15-20 minutes with the opportunity to ask questions.

3) Q&A – Immediately following the evening service on 22nd March, bring your questions on our Isaiah sermon series or submit them here.

4) 20s & 30s Social – If you are in your 20s or 30s, you are invited to hang out at St Andrews Brew Co from 7pm on Monday 23rd March.

5) Good Friday Service – 3pm on 3rd April in the Halls. We will take the Lord's Supper together during this service.

6) Baptisms – We're planning a baptism service in the near future. If you haven't been baptised and would like to talk more about it, get in touch with Paul at paul@standrewsfreechurch.co.uk

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