



**Free Church
of St Andrews**

Morning Service – 23rd August 2026

Welcome to St Andrews Free Church! This morning Richard Brash will speak on Psalm 12.

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.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty!

early in the morning our song shall rise to thee:

Holy, holy, holy! – Merciful and mighty,

God in three persons, blessèd Trinity.

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,

casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;

cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,

who wast and art, and evermore shall be.

Holy, holy, holy! – Though the darkness hide thee,

though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see;

only thou art holy, there is none beside thee,

perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty!

all thy works shall praise thy name, in Earth and sky and sea:

Holy, holy, holy! – Merciful and mighty,

God in three persons, blessèd Trinity.

Reginald Heber (1783–1826)

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.

Rock of Ages, cleft for me

let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood,
from thy riven side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure,
cleanse me from its guilt and power.

Not the labours of my hands
can fulfil thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone:
thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring,
simply to thy cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress;
helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly;
wash me, Saviour, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
when my eyes are closed in death,
when I soar through tracts unknown,
see thee on thy judgement throne;
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.

Augustus Montague Toplady, Thomas Hastings

Interview

Notices and Children Leave for Sunday School

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.

Speak O Lord, as we come to you,
to receive the food of your holy Word.
Take your truth, plant it deep in us;
shape and fashion us in your likeness;
that the light of Christ might be seen today
in our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak O Lord and fulfil in us
all your purposes for your glory.

Teach us Lord, full obedience,
holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes;
in the radiance of your purity.
Cause our faith to rise,
cause our eyes to see
your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow'r that can never fail;
let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak O Lord, and renew our minds;
help us grasp the heights of your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,
that will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand
on your promises;
and by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.
Speak O Lord, 'til your church is built,
and the earth is filled with your glory.

Keith Getty and Stuart Townend ©2005 Thankyou Music

Reading and Sermon: Psalm 12 (page 452)

Psalm 12

Verse 1: Surrounded and struggling [and the plea for salvation]

Verses 2–4: The words of *the wicked*

Verse 5: The LORD's response [and the promise of safety]

Verses 6–7: The words of *the LORD*

Verse 8: Surrounded and struggling [but things are *not* the same!]

1) Surrounded and struggling (verses 1 and 8)

2) A war of words (verses 2–4 and 6–7)

a) The words of *the wicked* (verses 2–4)

i) False ii) Flattering iii) Full of themselves

☐ *Cut off by God*

b) The words of *the LORD* (verses 6–7)

i) Pure ii) Precious iii) Perfect

☐ *Kept by God*

c) The faithful "amen": *will we believe?*

3) The LORD's response (verse 5)

a) He hears the poor and needy

b) He rises up

c) He promises the place of safety

Conclusion: *What has changed? Nothing and everything*

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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This evening's sermon passage is Matthew 22:15-22.

Next week's services:

10:30am: Psalm 96

6pm: Matthew 22:23-33

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

Notices

1) An Evening with the Brashes – We will hear from our mission partners in Japan, the Brash family, on the evening of Wednesday 26th August. Come to 1 Dempster Terrace from 7:15pm for a 7:30 start. Sign up to their newsletter [here](#).

2) Ladies' Summer Fellowship – All women in the church are invited to a relaxed time of coffee, chat and prayer at 10:30am on 28th August at the home of Lorna Thomson (10 Doocot Road). Babies and toddlers are welcome. Friday Fellowship will resume on 11th September.

3) Elder Induction – Chris McLean will be inducted as an elder during the morning service next Sunday (30th August). Keep Chris and his family in your prayers.

4) Parents Together Evening – Please join us for our first parents' gathering of the new academic year! We will gather at 7.30pm on Monday August 31st to enjoy time together over drinks and snacks, to think about how we can be diligent in prayer for our children and to pray as families. Please get in touch with Hamish at h.j.sneddon@gmail.com if you have any questions. The venue will be sent through on email.

5) Church Family BBQ – Come to 1 Dempster Terrace from 6pm on Wednesday 2nd September and sign up [here](#) to bring food. All welcome!

6) Youth Group – For teenagers aged 12–18, the next meeting will be a social on 4th September. The first regular study will be from 3:30–5:30pm on Sunday 6th September. Contact hilaryous95@gmail.com for more details.

7) Two Morning Services – Please note that we will return to our term-time pattern of two morning services (9:30 & 11:30am) on Sunday 6th September.

8) Evergreens – This ministry is aimed at encouraging some of the 'more experienced' saints in our church family. Join us for tea, cake, encouragement and prayer at 2pm on Tuesday 15th September at 10 Doocot Road.

9) 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