

CHURCH BULLETIN

We are a congregation of the Free Church of Scotland. We gather each Lord's Day to praise and worship the only true and living God.

14th July 2024



WELCOME TO OUR SERVICE TODAY

Today's services will be taken by Mr Joe MacPhee (12 noon) and Mr Calum Maclean (6pm). Our services are livestreamed at: <https://www.youtube.com/@shawbostfreechurchofscotland>

At the **12:00 noon service**, the Scripture reading will be from Hebrews 9. The sermon will focus on verses 27-28.

At the **6.00pm service**, the Scripture reading will be from 2 Kings 5:1-14.

	12.00 Noon Service		6.00pm Service	
1	Psalm 96a 1-9	Sing Psalms	Psalm 107:1-8	Scottish Psalter
2	Psalm 32:8-11	Scottish Psalter	Psalm 103:8-14	Sing Psalms
3	Psalm 110:3-7	Sing Psalms	Psalm 146:5-7	Scottish Psalter
4	Psalm 25:4-9	Sing Psalms	Psalm 130	Sing Psalms

SUNDAY SCHOOL

There will be no Sunday School today due to the school holidays.

SERVICES NEXT LORD'S DAY

The services next Lord's Day will be taken by Rev David Ferguson. Rev Ferguson was recently licensed by the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth.

PRAYER MEETING & BIBLE STUDY

The prayer meeting and Bible study will take place on **Wednesday 17th July at 7pm** in **Bragar**. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

SATURDAY NIGHT PRAYER MEETING

The above meeting will be paused during the summer holiday period.

THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD

J.C. Ryle: "There is no such thing as chance, luck or accident in the Christian journey through this world. All is arranged and appointed by God. And all things are working together for the believer's good!"

Matthew Henry: "God who feeds the sparrows, will not starve His saints! God controls all the concerns of His people, even of those that are most insignificant, and least regarded. This is an encouragement to live in a continual dependence upon God's providential care! If God numbers our hairs, much more does He number our heads. He takes care of our lives, our needs, our concerns, and our souls. God's universal providence extends itself to all creatures, and to all their actions, even the smallest and most insignificant!"

Louis Berkhof: "Scripture everywhere teaches that even the most insignificant details of life are of divine ordering!"

Charles Spurgeon: "Providence may be seen as the finger of God, not merely in those events which shake nations and are duly emblazoned on the page of history-but in little incidents of common life. Yes, in the motion of a grain of dust, the trembling of a dew-drop, the flight of a swallow, or the movements of a fish!"

THE EARLY CHURCH FATHERS: ST GREGORY OF NYSSA (335-94) Man Created to Reflect God's Beauty

God created man in His own image - Genesis 1:27

Our Creator painted us as His image, to show in us His kingly grandeur. He did this comparably to a human painter copying human figures into his picture, using particular colours, adding tints matching the original, so that the human figure's beauty is accurately reproduced in its likeness. So God has done with us, except that He used noble attributes in place of colours. What many and various tints He applied to depict His true form! Not red, or white, or any combination of such colours, nor a dash of black to paint the eyebrows or eye, nor different shades to show the figure's depth, nor any such arts of the human painter. Rather He used innocence, freedom from sinful desire, blessedness, separation from all evil, and suchlike attributes, which blend to make God's likeness in human beings. These are the "colours" the Creator of His own image employed to stamp our nature.

If you look at the other things that express God's beauty in us, you will see that God's likeness in His human image is likewise fully maintained. Deity is mind and self-utterance. For "in the beginning was the Word" (John 1:1). Those who imitate Paul also "have the mind of Christ" (1 Cor. 2:16) "speaking" in them (1 Cor. 2:13). Human nature is akin to these; you find in yourself utterance and understanding, in imitation of the divine Mind and Word. Or again, God is love, the very Wellspring of love. The mighty John proclaims this, announcing that "love is of God" (1 John 4:7), and "God is love" (1 John 4:8). Our nature's Maker has formed this quality in us too; for He says, "hereby shall all know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35). If love is absent, the whole character of God's likeness is distorted.

THE LARGER CATECHISM (With Text and Scripture Proofs)

Q. 1. What is the chief and highest end of man?

A. Man's chief and highest end is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy him for ever.

Rom. 11:36; 1 Cor. 10:31; Ps. 73:24-28; John 17:21-23.

Q. 2. How doth it appear that there is a God?

A. The very light of nature in man, and the works of God, declare plainly that there is a God; but his Word and Spirit only, do sufficiently and effectually reveal him unto men for their salvation.

Rom. 1:19-20; Ps. 19:1-3; Acts 17:28; 1 Cor. 2:9-10; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; Isa. 59:21.

Q. 3. What is the Word of God?

A. The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, the only rule of faith and obedience.

2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:19-21; Eph. 2:20; Rev. 22:18-19; Isa. 8:20; Luke 16:29, 31; Gal. 1:8-9; 2 Tim. 3:15-16.