



## **ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH**

### **FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER**

*12<sup>th</sup> December, 2022*

#### **Sunday Sermon: Christmas Emotions**

While the popular perception of Christmas is one of "joy to the world", whether that is the Christian hope of salvation prospects or the increasingly hedonistic indulgence of a godless society, to many it is anything but that. Such positive emotions appear to contradict the reality of the dismal circumstances they find themselves in. 'Negative' emotions such as disappointment, stress, and sadness, all have their place in the Christmas story but are set in the context of Hope.

In the Matthew account of the nativity, the righteous Joseph was clearly disappointed when he was told by the angel that Mary was "with child", with all the shame and stigma attached to that condition. Any aspirations for the future were dashed. What would have been his natural expectation, having diligently followed social conventions, turned out to be catastrophic in his experience. He was disappointed.

Yet that was because of his lack of full knowledge and understanding that what was happening was part of a divine purpose of which he could not have been aware of at the time. It could be the engineering of God's purpose through these changing circumstances. But, disappointment can be dealt with by accepting that God is working out His purpose and that what would appear to be failure or disaster can, with acceptance, be a blessing.

Whatever our emotions might be this Christmas let us, too, "be glad" when we are told the "good news".

#### **Toddlers'**

Toddlers finishes this Tuesday for a break over the Christmas period. It is marked by holding a Christmas Party always thoroughly enjoyed by children and adults alike. For the helpers it will be a welcome rest period after all their hard and faithful work in making this activity possible.

#### **Ladies Christmas Lunch and Meeting**

Not to be out done and to maintain a longstanding tradition, the Ladies Meeting will have a Christmas Lunch before their meeting this Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> December. To accommodate that extra item the meeting will start at 1 pm (not 2pm as usual) and will feature lunch and a talk by visiting speaker, John Campbell

#### **SGA Prayer**

The monthly Prayer Meeting for the Slavic Gospel Association will revert to its regular slot of third Friday of the month which is this Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December at Margaret Russell's home, 53 Roman Road, Bearsden, G61 2SG at 7 30pm.

#### **Christmas Arrangements**

Special arrangements will apply to our services over Christmas seeing that Christmas day falls on a Sunday.

On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December the 10 30 gathering will be an All-Age Service. It will be followed by Christmas Lunch in the Back Hall.

The 6 30 Service will take the form of a Christmas Praise Evening with the Community Choir taking part.

Except for the Café and the Prayer meetings the other routine activities will not be taking place during the week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> December but will resume in the New Year.

On Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve – we will be hosting Carols by Candlelight starting at 7pm

That will be followed on Sunday morning with a Christmas day Service at 10 30. No refreshments will be served at the close.

There will be no Communion on Sundays 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> December.

The Morning Prayer Times will continue each Wednesday and Friday morning from 9 until 9 30am until Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December and then start again on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

The Tuesday evening Church Prayer Meeting will continue each Tuesday at 8 pm as usual.

There will be no Café on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Prayer**

At this time of the year, with so much focus on the family, we, as the ‘family of faith’ and belonging to One Father remember those of our number in Care Homes (Margaret Cowan, Jack Harvey, Joyce Kyle, Margaret Stewart) and others facing challenging situations with health or circumstances.

We also remember the wider Christian family, many of whom because of war, persecution or famine, are experiencing a very bleak existence over this season.

### **Mission of the Month**

We continue this month with support for Release International who serve as The Voice of persecuted believers in Eastern Europe and beyond. Our prayers and contribution are very much appreciated by them.

### **Newsletter**

Next week’s newsletter will be the last for this year. It will have a theme of thankfulness to God, not only for what Christmas means to Christians (something that our godless world has long dismissed) but also will recount many blessings “in trouble and in joy” that have featured during 2022. Any contributions will be very welcome as we reflect through words, hymns or Scriptures

### **Pastoral Team**

Sandy would like to thank the following members of the Pastoral Team for all their hard work and dedication.

Margaret Russell, Flora McInnes, Betty MacKay, Mary Linton, Ann Lyle and Isobel Nicol.

Amen to that.

### **Finally,**

Amid all the uncertainty, fear, confusion, helplessness, despair, etc, we rejoice in the Christian message of Christmas:

*And the government shall be upon His shoulders.*

*For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given.*

*And He shall be called: Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.*

*And, of the increase of His government there shall be no end.*