



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

13th December, 2021

Sunday Sermon: Isaiah 11

Greg Ferguson, our visiting speaker at yesterday's service, drew our attention to the significance of Isaiah 11 promising light and hope against a background of devastating darkness.

The familiar reference in chapter 9 to a "people who sit in darkness" "seeing a great light" is elaborated in the pictures presented in chapter 11.

It begins with the prophetic image of a young shoot emerging from the broken stump of a tree that had been cut down and left as desolate. Israel had failed to live up to its calling as the people of God and had plunged itself in darkness.

It is a promise of a Redeemer, the Messiah, the King of a new kingdom. He is a glorious king, filled with the spirit of the Lord, just and righteous. Jesus, the One born at Christmas, is that Redeemer: He brings salvation and hope.

As we have been reminded recently, Advent reminds us of his second coming, with the promise of a new kingdom, where Jesus reigns in peace, having overcome sin through the blood of his cross. It is a kingdom of peace and joy.

So, against the current background of a dark, godless, world, it behoves us to personally welcome this Saviour, "which is Christ the Lord".

Advent:

For the Christian, the A&E in Advent is not for Accident and Emergency but for Anticipation and Expectation. (Margaret Stewart)

Services This Week

Normal services will continue this week with Prayer meetings on Tuesday at 8pm (in the church and on Zoom) and on Wednesday and Friday morning on Zoom at 9 am. #One2Seven and the Café Drop-In will also meet and the extra Bible Study on NT Nativity promises on Thursday at 7 30pm on Zoom. Sunday morning will be our Family Christmas Service. The final meeting in the United Advent series will be Lessons and Carols in St Paul's at 7pm on Sunday, led by Douglas Campbell.

And next week: (December 20th onwards)

The Tuesday Prayer meeting, Drop-In Café will be held that week but no other gatherings except for our Carols and cake Candlelight Carol Service at 7pm on Christmas Eve where we hope to see a number of visitors and friends join us. Communion will be on the morning of Sunday 26th.

Help!

Following the morning service and refreshments on Sunday 19th December we will be setting out the Main Hall for the Carols and Cake Candlelight Service at 7pm on Friday 24th December help would be appreciated to do this.

Newsletter arrangements

This is the last Newsletter for this year. Having appeared each week throughout 2021, it has sought to report and reflect what is happening but governed by what information comes to hand.

Next Monday's will be a special Christmas edition

The next one after that will come out on 10th January and will be a special New Year edition.

Mission of the Month

Our Mission of the Month for December is The Space in Govanhill. It is a project headed up by Margo Upritchard providing a safe space and practical help for the refugees, especially Romas, in desperate need. Further information on how to contribute to their Christmas Appeal the Crush Hall.

Bible Study Extras

Following last week's informal sharing we will continue with another session on Thursday focusing on what the NT has to say about the coming of Christ that first Christmas and its implications for us today and, as the Advent services have reminded us, for tomorrow.

Prayer

Throughout the year we have mentioned people and projects for prayer. Inevitably, once anyone or any event is named there is the risk of overlooking someone. However, at this time of the year we want to include everyone in our prayers, including: all those on our 'sick list' or facing challenging circumstances or still feeling bereavement; all those who

faithfully contribute of their time, energy and resources to make sure the church functions effectively; to all who diligently attend to their Christian witness – whatever the situation; to all the local outreaches and activities – Maryhill Evangelical; the Milngavie churches, Scripture Union, City Mission et al, etc; and the worldwide church, many of whom are having to face horrendous persecution and hardship. And, of course, the fraught and fragile world situation and governments of all levels as they continue their relentless task of governance yet, sadly, in a climate of godlessness. Such faithful prayers for others are always appreciated.

Allander Christmas Choir

Your choir needs you for the Christmas Service! Would you like to be part of the Allander Voice Christmas Choir which will sing at the Christmas Service on Sunday morning, at 10 30am on 19th December? The commitment is to learn two songs and attend one zoom session between now and then. If you are interested, please speak to Gayle in person or call 07740 467235. All ages and stages welcome - just a love of singing. 🎵

Finally,

There is a saying amongst my ministry friends that if your Christmas sermon is "Christmas through the eyes of the donkey" then you are needing a new direction in ministry! However, behind the humour is the reality of once again trying to present the Christmas story in a "fresh" way. What we ultimately have discovered is that we can't! The Christmas story is well known and is well founded in history and what makes it fresh is not the ingenuity of a preacher, but the anointing and power of the Holy Spirit. Thankfully there is so much truth contained in the miracle of the Incarnation that despite the preacher's fear at this time of season, there will always be some fresh glimmer of grace upon the truth of God's Word that can inspire the soul to worship Love Incarnate.

John Macleod

God, who at sundry times spoke unto our fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken unto us by his Son. See that you refuse not him that speaks from heaven. (Hebrews 1: 1,2; 12: 25)