



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

13th September, 2021

Sunday Sermon: 1 Kings 19: 1 - 18

The question posed by God to Elijah in this week's *Questions God asks* series - "*What are you doing here, Elijah?*" - could be construed as a rebuke for running away from a situation and hiding in despondency. But, the nature and the tone of the ensuing dialogue suggests otherwise. If nothing else, it shows Elijah's frailty and human weakness. The people God uses are not superhuman heroes but ordinary people enabled by God's divine power.

Elijah had just witnessed a miraculous victory on Mount Carmel when God had "sent the fire" and declared himself superior to Baal. Jezebel, however, was not impressed and set out, not to worship the true God but to persecute Elijah. That was not what Elijah had hoped for and so became very despondent, literally going down into the valley in despair.

It was there that God confronted him with the query: *What are you doing here?*" It was not spoken in censure but by way of encouragement for Elijah to trust Him and continue in pursuit of God's sovereign purpose. God was watching over him. He understood Elijah's burden and disappointment, but assured him that the future lay not with Jezebel and the promotion of idol worship but with the promised triumph of God.

So, God seeks to redeploy Elijah from his inward disappointment to a positive position of appreciating that "God is working out his purpose". In the same way we can hold on and have "faith not fear". "He knows, He loves and He cares."

Last Week's Meetings

Toddler Time got off to a good start on Tuesday with many glad to be back there.

The Drop-In is still establishing itself in attracting folks who appreciated the chance to chat and share with others.

Hashtag is getting under way again with an encouraging number of helpers and a small number of young folk attending. Simon and Hannah are doing well.

Bible Study

This Thursday will see the third revision session before we launch into Numbers next week. The 'homework' is to share any thoughts and reflections from the Book of Leviticus. It will also be linked to our special Sunday Evening Service next Sunday.

September Meetings

While John is away on deputation for Children for Christ, Jim Gourley will take the morning service on the 19th September, Howel Jones on the morning of the 26th and Gordon Thomson the evening service that day.

The evening service this Sunday (19th) will be more informal with a focus on Bible Study, taking the theme: "*Thy word have I hid in my heart*". Howel will lead the service and provide an outline of the Bible's message and its implications. That will be followed by some structured sharing by participants in the Bible Study sessions of the last year, reflecting on how a closer study of the Word has helped them in their Christian lives.

Mission of the Month

This month's cause is **Hope for Glasgow** and their leader, Terry McCutcheon, who was with us a few Sundays' ago. He shares prayer points with us: for the lads benefitting from the programme, for the programmes themselves and the challenge of overcoming frustrations, for the workers and the attrition they experience, and thanks that the work is 5 years' old. Since then, however, we have heard that his wife, Sharleen, is critically ill following the birth of their new son. Our prayers are with them at this anxious time.

Psalm 23 Japanese Version

Following Ian Baird's sharing of the Seaman's version of the 23rd Psalm, Gordon Craig submitted a Japanese version:

*The Lord is my pace-setter; I shall not rush.
He makes me stop for quiet intervals;
He provides me with images of stillness
Which restore my serenity.
He leads me in ways of efficiency
Through calmness of mind;
And his guidance is peace.
Even though I have many things to
accomplish each day,
I will not fret, for his presence is near.
His timelessness and his all-importance
will keep me in balance.
He prepares refreshment and renewal in
the midst of my activity*

*By anointing my head with his own
tranquillity.*

My cup of joyous energy overflows.

*Surely, harmony and effectiveness shall be
the fruits of my hours;*

*For I shall walk in the pace of my Lord and
dwell in his house for ever.*

Letter from Irene Carmichael

*Thank you so much for the prayers,
flowers, cards and telephone calls received
when Dad passed away. The funeral
service was so uplifting. Mum is now
adjusting, but made more difficult as her
eyesight is so poor. Thank you, again, on
behalf of the family. Irene, Ian and Family*

People

We extend our very best wishes to Jack Adair as he moves home from Clydebank to Ratho near Edinburgh and his new position in a legal practice. We have appreciated and valued the years that Jack has worshipped with us and engaged in various activities. We look forward to welcoming him back to Allander when he is in the area.

It was good to see Donald Macleod out again after surgery.

We continue to pray for David Jack, now in Milngavie Manor Care Home (but, please, no calls or visiting); and for all our 'regulars', like Joyce Kyle and those in Care Homes, including all who are facing difficulties and challenges in these days.

Finally,

Over the last weeks, we have listened to questions God has asked his people. In Luke 11v11-13, Christ asks, "If a son asks for bread, a fish, or an egg, would you give him a stone, serpent or scorpion?" The answer is obvious. Christ emphasises that if we, who are sinners, would not deny our children food, how much more God the Father, who is altogether good, not give the Holy Spirit to them who ask him. Just as food is necessary for the body, so the church needs God the Holy Spirit. He regenerates and renews the believer. He comforts us, helps us in prayer and convicts of sin, righteousness and judgement, pointing us to Christ.

Sandy Allan