



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

16th January, 2023

Sunday Sermon: Luke 1: 5 – 25

Last week's sermon – the first in a series on faith and believing – emphasised the reliability of the sources used by Luke so that we can be confident in our reasons for faith and believing.

In yesterday's sermon, the focus was on the **Consistency of Faith**. Several aspects of that emerge from this passage.

There is the **consistency of God in history**. These New Testament events are a clear follow-through of what God has been, and is, doing through history. The appearance of Jesus as the Messiah was well heralded in the OT and announced in the New.

The coming of Jesus breathed new spirit into an old established system. It marked a **consistency of life**. It was always God's purpose to provide redemption for His people. That was done in the OT through covenant, sacrifices and ritual. Here, that was superseded by the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. It showed the **consistency of God's plan**.

Like any promise, it had to be believed and trusted-in if it was to be effective. Failure to accept the Messiah – or, as in this incidence, doubt over what was promised - could result in punishment: Zechariah became dumb.

But, it also shows a **consistency of God's mercy**. Scripture says that God wills that none should perish but all come to repentance. Our Gospel not only portrays a consistent God – all powerful, who sustain all things by the word of His power but also One who offers salvation to those who believe in Him and His offer of grace.

Christmas and the New Year

It has been very encouraging over the Christmas and New Year period to have been able to welcome so many visitors to our various gatherings. Some of these were visitors passing through. Others were attracted by personal invitations or through our advert in the Community Magazine, the Milngavie Herald or the church website.

Appreciation

One such visitor expressed her appreciation in the following letter received following their visit:

Dear Pastor

I just wanted to write to you to thank you and everyone at your church for making me and my mother feel so incredibly welcome a couple of Sundays ago. I'm the visitor from Canada!

It was very special for me to bring my mother to church - and I was looking for a place that felt like home, a friendly welcoming community - and we certainly experienced that from the moment we walked in the front door.

It nearly didn't happen as my mum had a bit of an annoying cough, and so I prayed that if it were the Lord's will that she come, to make it so. And the answer I got was to just share with her how much it would mean to me, for her to come with me. And in her loving and generous way, she agreed and I know that she was very touched by the kindness and hospitality of so many. And she had mentioned that she would like to come back - I am praying that she will. Our visit to your church that

*Sunday morning, was the highlight of my trip home to Scotland.
So thank you. To everyone who welcomed us, smiled and made us feel so at home.
For your sermon Pastor, for the beautiful piano and guitar playing and the wonderful fellowship that followed.
May God Bless you all. With much gratitude.
Sarah Shaw*

Mission of the Month

Our Mission of the Month for January is The Christian Institute. Nigel Kenny will be at the Prayer meeting on Tuesday to bring us up to date with the many activities they are involved in, the key issues that will need to be faced in the days and months ahead, and the part that we must play in establishing Christian values and resisting ungodly secularism. .

If Prison Walls Could Speak

There will be a special event on Thursday, 19th January when an audio visual presentation, sponsored by Release International, will take place at the church.

The presentation gives an insight into the experience of some believers persecuted for their faith. Tickets, costing £8 each, are available online or at the door.

Tribute to Margaret Cowan

The funeral of Margaret Cowan took place at the church last Thursday. It was well attended by many friends and family. Paying tribute to Margaret at the service,

Finally,

Whatever last year looked like, God has given us an opportunity for a fresh start. Imagine as a church what God could do if we all joined in prayer together? The world is broken, but God can make what is broken whole again. May God give us the courage to share the hope we have in him by sharing the gospel. We have a faithful loving God. No matter what this year holds, His promises are true.

May we hold on to the eternal hope we have in him for each of our lives for 2023?

Jim Flett

Jim Gourley spoke of her warm personality, love and Christian commitment expressed through hospitality, friendliness, concern for others and her constant support. From their early days in Clackmannanshire she and George lived in several locations related to George's work. They moved to Milngavie in 1977 and became members of Allander, moving to Bearsden in recent years. She played a key role in its life until deteriorating health seriously curtailed that contribution. Warm memories of her are still cherished by all.

Ann Thomson

We have heard of the passing of Ann Thomson, one time member of Allander, at the grand old age of 104 years. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jim, Ann and Mhairi at this time of bereavement.

SGA

The next SGA Prayer meeting will be held in Margaret Russell's home at 53 Roman Road, Bearsden, on Friday 20th January at 7 30pm.

Packing for Romania.

We plan on the last Friday of each month to meet in the church at 10.30am to sort and pack clothes that have been donated for transportation to Children for Christ in Romania.

The January date is Friday 27th. All help will be appreciated. Thank you.