



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

20th September, 2021

Sunday Sermon: The Final Doxology

Posing the question someone might ask us (What does your religion mean to you?) Jim Gourley drew attention to John's 'final doxology' in Revelation 1: 5-6 as an appropriate summary answer.

The first element is *"Unto Him who has loved us?"* The unconditional love God has for us is the basis for our faith. He loves us in spite of everything. As John 3: 16 says: *"God so loved the world that he gave....."*

That deliberate action of giving His Son for us and Jesus' subsequent death to atone for our sins in a substitutionary sacrifice means that we can be freed from our sins and bondage in this world. There is forgiveness through His Blood shed for us on Calvary. And there is new birth.

By His resurrection Christ is alive and dwells in us. In Christ we become 'new creatures', and are made to be part of His 'Kingdom' – a redeemed people, 'sons of God', a people ruled by God. There is a new perspective, a new reality, a genuine being 'born again' to a new hope. Belief in the Lord Jesus leads to that new life. Being part of God's people is a privilege we enjoy.

In that regenerated condition we are made to be priests to our God with direct access to the Godhead. That is significantly experienced in prayer where we can bring everything to Him and become involved in seeking His will to *"be done on earth"*. Yet, while the privilege of being beneficiaries of such saving grace is ours, the glory belongs to God.

That is why we come to worship Him.

The Week's Activities

Toddler Time attendance has been encouraging with members expressing delight at being able to return. Drop-In provided good opportunities for chat and Hashtag continues to be effective, with good numbers attending.

Sunday Services

Yesterday's services featured Jim Gourley in the morning and sharing by Bible Study participants and Jim McKellar at night. Next Sunday, Howel Jones and Gordon Thomson will be the preachers.

Bible Study

This Thursday at 7 30 on Zoom we will start looking at the Book of Numbers. We will focus on Chapters 1 to 4.

Children for Christ Deputation

John Macleod will be in Lewis and Harris from 17th to 27th September sharing with supporting churches about the work in Romania. Accompanying John will be Ovi Barlea, a Romanian national who now lives in Scotland; having married Alison from Erskine whom he met at Camp in Romania! Despite the restricted activities this summer, and having faced challenges of varying kinds, it is great to report that there was still a very fruitful summer at the Camps. Over the course of the summer, 79 children expressed their desire to be disciples of Jesus. Please pray that as the leaders follow up with these children they will be encouraged by spiritual growth and pray that the deputation will be a source of stimulation and encouragement.

Inga and Mexico

It was so good to have Inga join us at last Tuesday's Prayer meeting on Zoom.

For the past few weeks Inga has been in South Dakota where she received her Covid jabs and also some much-needed dental attention, taking advantage of the opportunity to avail herself of the better range of services available there. It has also been a good opportunity, away from the immediate pressures of Oaxaca, to continue working on presentations and papers in connection with her role as a key trainer. Both it, and the translation work itself, makes very heavy demands on time, energy and skills for both Inga and Sue as they continue to work diligently on translating the Scriptures into Mixtec.

The challenges are great. Not only do they face the task of finding the right words and phrases to accurately convey the meaning of concepts that are unfamiliar to that culture but they also have to cope with the vagaries of unreliable internet connections and poor power supplies. They have a good team of local helpers but they are often hampered by illness, family concerns and various pressures.

It is a real privilege to be constantly supporting the work.

Gift

A gift of £5,000 has been received from the estate of Mrs Song Clark who worshipped with us. We give thanks for Mrs Clark's thoughtfulness and to God for His goodness and provision. Following our established custom, a tithe (£500) has been given from the gift to Barnabas Fund to help support Christians in Afghanistan.

Harvest

This year our Harvest Thanksgiving service will take place on Sunday 3rd October at 10.30am. The cause which we will be supporting is Blythwood Care and you can do this in two ways. (1) Through the annual Shoe Box appeal. Leaflets to enable you to do this are available now at the church entrance or from Jim Gourley. Please bring your box to the church by Sunday 31st October. (2) By making a cash donation through the Missionary of the Month cause in the offering box at the back of the church or direct to Ian Baird.

David Jack

Continue to remember David in the Care Home in his weakness at this time. May he – and the family – know God's peace and comfort. And we remember others who need prayer to face life's challenges.

Finally,

In preparation for travel to the Hebrides I took a Covid test through one of the NHS kits for home testing. It was straightforward enough and I hurt my throat and nose sufficiently to believe I had completed it correctly. After waiting the required time, I was delighted to see it was negative and I went to register the result with the NHS. It was then I realised how easy it could be for someone to cheat as there is no actual means for them to check the veracity of the result; they take your word for it! God asks us to examine ourselves, but he never takes our word for it. What determines our spiritual wellbeing is not if we say we are okay but if His word declares it. Thankfully, if His word does help us detect something wrong, it also guides us to the cure. Psalm 139 v 23-24 Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

John Macleod