



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

22nd March, 2021

The Nature of Unbelief - John 12: 1-11

Taking this passage for the second week, John, on this occasion, emphasised the contrast it contained between the devotional action of Martha in serving and Mary in pouring out the ointment in worship with the insidious unbelief that also resides in this incident arising out of explicit and implicit objection to such devotion. The positive and the negative.

For his part, Jesus commended the 'extravagant' devotion and said of Mary, when objections were raised, "*Leave her alone*" for he recognised not only her spontaneous worship but also the prophetic nature of her action in preparing him for his death, burial and resurrection.

Some of the unbelief, like that of the Chief Priests, was open and antagonistic. But Judas' unbelief was more subtle, for he masqueraded as one of the disciples.

That is the danger we need to be wary of. Unbelief is *determined* – doesn't happen by chance; *deceptive* in that the real motive is not apparent; *disturbing* because it is aggravated if encountering true belief; *dismissive* of devotion because it *disguises* itself as being concerned with alternative and 'superior' values, etc. But essentially it is *deluded* because it is subtly driven by self-centred motives. The chief priests thought about position and Judas was a thief deep down.

Yet, the good news is that such delusional unbelief can be destroyed by putting our trust in Jesus, having first examined our hearts to see where we really stand.

Meeting Arrangements

With the easing of Covid restriction from 26th March, we will be able to gather for Sunday worship in the church this Sunday after being 'in exile' more-or-less for a year. On both Palm Sunday (28th March) and Easter Day (4th April) there will be one service at 10 30am which may also be available on Zoom if the technology allows. Then, from Sunday 11th April, it is intended to revert to two different services at 10 30am and 6 30pm, each day, DV.

Milngavie Holy Week Services

The Milngavie United Churches' Holy Week services will be held online through YouTube each evening from Monday 29th to Friday 2nd April at 7 pm. The link is: <https://www.milngavie.church/holyweek/>

Different Ministers will be responsible for each service with our John Macleod preaching on Wednesday evening, Douglas Campbell on Monday, Ramsay Shields on Tuesday, Fergus Buchanan on Thursday and John Wilson on Friday.

We will be opening the Church building each evening so that we can live stream the services to those who would wish to attend, so please come for 7pm. It may be that the Wednesday evening will be a 'live' service. As normal with YouTube, the services will be available for a few days after the initial streaming.

Please pray that God will bless the services and that despite the restrictions we will be able to celebrate the great Easter season and its glorious message.

Easter Fellowship

On Easter Sunday we will also hold another Zoom Fellowship Evening at 6 30pm , similar to the one held last Christmas, on the theme of *The Road to Emmaus* when there will be an opportunity to reflect on what the experience leading up to Easter has meant for us.

Prayer and Bible Study

The Prayer Meeting and Bible Study will be held as normal this week but, with Holy Week services being held next week, there will be no Tuesday Prayer Meeting on the 30th or Bible Study on the 1st, but the 10am morning prayer sessions on the Wednesday and Friday will continue.

Due to an over-run last week, the passage and homework for the Bible Study this Thursday is Exodus 11 – 15.

#One2Seven

Three sessions have now been broadcast. While the number of children responding has been disappointing, the enthusiasm and quality of the responses has been very encouraging. Remember Allyson as she communicates with these children – and their parents.

Slavic Gospel Association

At Tuesday's Prayer Meeting, Mark Foster brought us encouraging news of the 70 mission workers recruited as the target to mark 70 years of the Mission's existence, and their current various ministries in different and difficult situations.

Prayer

In addition to our regular list of folks who appreciate prayer further requests include: Janice and Gordon Thomson with the passing away of Janice's father; John Macleod and Carol have been suffering from a heavy cold and infection; Jim Gourley has undergone further investigation; Logan, of the new family moved in to Maryhill, whose father has passed away in the US as a result of Covid-19; and Danny's (Maryhill) Mum in hospital. May they know the comfort of the "everlasting arms" at this time.

Fresh Start

We look forward to meeting up in church again this Sunday morning after almost a year of 'physical absence'. During this time many will have benefitted from virtual contact through Zoom, etc, but for many that will not have been possible for various reasons. May we encourage everyone to make an effort to make this a fresh start and a new beginning?

Finally,

Some wonderful thoughts to reflect on:

Majestic sweetness sits enthroned, upon the Saviour's brow. His head with radiant glories crowned, His lips with grace o'erflow.

No mortal can with Him compare, among the sons of men. Fairer is He than all the fair, who fill the heavenly train.

He saw me plunge in deep distress, and flew to my relief. For me He bore the shameful cross, and carried all my grief.

To Him I owe my life and breath, and all the joys I have. He makes me triumph over death, and saves me from the grave.

Samuel Stennett 1725 - 1795