



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

23rd August, 2021

Sunday Sermon: Genesis 18: 1 - 5

The "*Questions God asks*" of this series are not intended to provide God with information – He already knows – but to elicit a positive effect in those being questioned. The first two questions (*Adam, where are you? And Cain, what have you done?*) were both intended to reveal their failures and the extent of their guilt.

Today's question to Abraham – and Sarah – was, in contrast, intended to reveal God's own nature. (18: 14)

The context was one of the **problem of unfulfilled promises**. From the days of his call, God had promised that Abraham would be the "father of a great nation". Yet, here he was in old age, without an heir.

Yet, not in hostility but through the **blessing of Divine Friendship**, God draws near to Abraham to reassure him and to indicate that the promise would be fulfilled. In doing that, God **invited Abraham to Kingdom participation** by revealing His will and purpose, and to exercise prayer – a crucial, even if neglected - activity. However, **what is not guaranteed** is the fulfilment of personal desires and aspirations; only that which is the will of God. And that speaks of the **power of promised redemption**.

That is a real challenge and incentive for us as we launch into a Week of Prayer knowing that "**Is anything too hard for the Lord?**" is the only firm ground as we actively pray for and believe: "*Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth*".

Week of Prayer

As things begin to "open up" and more (and new!) church activities begin we are dedicating this week, starting yesterday, as a week of prayer to commit our lives individually and congregationally to be:

- 1) Aligning with God's Priorities,
- 2) Accommodating God's Presence and
- 3) Accomplishing His Purposes.

A Prayer Guide has been issued to help us focus our prayers each day.

In practical terms, this week we will meet in the church on Tuesday, on Zoom on Wednesday, and in the church on Friday morning to bring our week to a close and have a time together afterwards for tea / coffee. It will still be possible to join online if you are unable to attend.

Coming Events

Just a reminder that, with restrictions now raised, a number of activities will be starting up again and new arrangements made.

* **The Prayer Meeting** on Tuesday 24th August will be held in the church alongside access by Zoom and will continue like that each week, DV.

* The **Week of Prayer** continues and will end on Friday with some fellowship.

* The **services on Sunday** will continue with John preaching on *Questions God Asks* on Sunday morning and Psalm 93 in the evening.

* The **Drop-In Cafe**. This new venture starts on 1st September from 10.30am until 12.30pm. Invitation cards are available to invite friends and others to

come. We require confirmation of people who will be part of a rota to enable this outreach to be successful, so please give your name to Jim Gourley as soon as possible.

* **#One2Seven**. This activity restarts on 1st September with Simon & Hannah Snodgrass from CEF (Child Evangelism Fellowship) supporting us. However, we need each week to provide drinks and snacks to the children so we need a rota for this each Wednesday from 6.30pm until 7.45pm. Please offer your help to John Macleod.

*The new series of **Bible Study** will start up on Thursday 2nd September at 7 30pm; again on Zoom for the foreseeable future.

***Mother and Toddlers** will start up the following week on Tuesday 7th September from 9 30 to 11 00am.

Mission of the Month

Our Mission of the Month for August is the Scottish Bible Society. Next week we will have a fuller piece from Mark Girvan outlining the work that they do.

Friendship House

Friendship House is a unique venue in Milngavie, owned and operated by the churches working together to provide company and fellowship. Though closed during the pandemic, it is now open on

Thursdays and Fridays offering teas, coffees and light snacks. One recent visitor commented: *"I visited Friendship House the first Thursday it reopened. I was very impressed with the bright and enthusiastic welcome I received. It is all looking sparkling and refreshed after the long shutdown"*. It depends on volunteers to keep it going and would welcome offers of help. Contact Rhona Raeburn at 07719949929.

People and Prayer

We continue to remember David Jack who celebrated his 82nd Birthday last week and is now in Gartnavel (Ward 8A) awaiting further care provision.

Jim Gourley undergoes another round of surgery tomorrow.

Prayer requests continue to come from Oaxaca with help for the workers, protection from Covid and reliability from Internet connections and electricity supplies a constant theme.

We continue to remember those of our own folks who are facing daily challenges and for whom the lifting of restrictions does not bring much relief.

And for our world in these perilous times; and especially believers caught up in these conflicts and their aftermath.

Finally,

On the 8th July, President Joe Biden confidently told the world that the Taliban would never gain control over Afghanistan. It is tragic how quickly his words have proven to be futile. The USA president (whoever holds the post!) is often touted to be the most powerful man in the world or the leader of the free world, which makes his failing in this situation truly appalling. If that is the level of control and understanding the most powerful man in the world has, then what a testimony to the weakness of humanity he is. The Psalmist, reflecting on the conspiring of world leaders said, The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them. Thankfully the Lord does not laugh at the pain of life in Afghanistan and thankfully the people of Afghanistan can call on a greater Name for their help than the name of a human President.

John Macleod