



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

23rd January, 2023

Sunday Sermon: Luke 1: 26 - 45

Revisiting the nativity narrative in Luke's Gospel and examining the nature of faith, we have already seen its **certainty** in that it is based on reliable sources; and its **consistency** in that it is a saving message that has been faithfully proclaimed throughout the Old Testament story.

Yesterday, the topic was **Challenging Faith** based on the announcement to Mary about the impending miraculous birth - and ministry - of the Lord Jesus as the Messiah.

Mary's response was to **accept the miraculous activity** implicit in the announcement that a divinely begotten child would be born of her, a virgin. In her bewilderment at the apparent 'non-possibility' of such a happening she accepted the angel's message and impending event.

The significant basis for her doing so was not human reason but a clear **belief in God's word**. What the angel announced was a clear message from God. Humble though she was, Mary actively believed that promise and prediction submitting herself to its implication and prospect in a positive attitude.

That positivity and acceptance is evidenced in the fact that; when she and Elizabeth met, they joined in a **celebration of God's amazing purposes** and how these were about to be realised in Jesus.

We, too, should positively believe in that message and rejoice in it. *"Let the redeemed of the Lord, say so!"*

Prayer meeting

At last Tuesday's Prayer Meeting Nigel Kenny, of the Christian Institute, alerted us to the disturbing trend rampant in the country at the present time where policies and practices are being driven by secular pressure groups posing a threat to family, church and traditional values. We were encouraged to take a 'stand' and engage in prayer and advocacy. It was a very challenging evening.

If Prison Walls Could Speak

The Artless Theatre group's presentation on Thursday night depicting the persecution - and subsequent victory - of those suffering for their faith could not but leave a lasting impression on any one who was there and drive us to fervent prayer.

Ladies Meeting

The Ladies will meet again on Thursday from 2 to 3pm with Peter Buchan as the speaker.

Mission of the Month

This is the last week to contribute to Christian Institute as our Mission of the Month for January.

Pray for:

Prayer is a key activity for God's people.

We pray for those in the fellowship going through difficult times in terms of health, wellbeing, challenges and circumstances. Among them are: Ian Baird, Mary Clark, George Cowan, Terry Gallagher, Jim Gourley, Joyce Kyle, Jack and Christine

Harvey, Inga McKendry, Robert Miller, Margaret Stewart and David Wilson.

We are also asked to pray for agencies and missions operating in different contexts, such as the Faith Mission, SGA, Hope for Glasgow, The Christian Institute, Street Connect, and Scripture Union.

And we remember our fellow believers and churches in our area, like our friends at Maryhill Evangelical.

Jing

We are very privileged to be able to accommodate the Glasgow Chinese Church and support the work of Jing as she reaches out to a wide range of Chinese children through the internet. There is an extended 'Sunday School' and examples of Bible teaching disseminated regularly, much of it recorded at Allander. It means a lot of hard work on Jing's part for which she appreciates our support and prayers. Many of her activities are carried out without many of us being aware of them.

Ann Thomson funeral arrangement

A number have asked about funeral arrangements for Ann Thomson of Fairview Court who passed away recently at 104 years of age. Burial at Kirkintilloch at 1pm on Thursday 9th February followed by a Thanksgiving Service at Milngavie UF church at 1.45pm. Then Kirkhouse Inn in Strathblane.

Hashtag

Hashtag, along with our other outreach activities, such as Toddlers', Café and Ladies' meeting, is proving very effective but brings its challenges, not least the need for more help and involvement.

Simon shared his concerns with a group of helpers last week during which he encouraged greater involvement.

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 this Friday, 27th at 10.30 All help will be appreciated. Thank you.

Blythswood Care Job Vacancy:

There is a great and exciting opportunity to join Blythswood Care as their Central Belt & South Scotland Fundraising Manager with a salary of around £30K. Further details are available from Jim Gourley or John Macleod. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in this great opportunity, we would love to hear from you!

Please call 01349 830777 or email personnel@blythswood.org or visit our website blythswood.org/current-vacancies

Finally,

The drama, "If prison walls could speak" was one of the most powerful things I have witnessed in Christian ministry. For years, the words of Hebrews 13 v 3; "*Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering,*" have been a great challenge to me and the closest I've felt to truly obeying them was on Thursday evening in the church watching the dramatic presentation of the experience of Petr Jasek, a Czech national who was imprisoned in Sudan because of his faith. May the reality of persecution cause us to value our brothers and sisters in Christ and encourage us to make the most of our liberty, while we have it.

John Macleod