



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

24th January, 2022

Sunday Sermon 1 Peter 2: 9 - 12

It has been interesting to note how the two main sources of ministry – Bible Study and Sunday sermons - seem to focus on the concept of God raising a People for Himself and being concerned with their witness. Parallels are drawn between Israel in the OT and the Church in the New.

1 Peter 2 has already emphasised that the Church has a sure foundation in the Lord Jesus whom God set forth to be the Cornerstone. Anyone who repents of sin and trusts in the work of Christ in his death and resurrection is privileged to be part of that church.

Today's passage elaborated on that privilege through recognising the identity and purpose of the church. That identity – being a member of the church – is shaped by our response to the message of the gospel. Only those who believe are in. It also recognises the continuity of God's purpose. As it was then, so is it now.

Being described as 'a chosen people', 'a kingdom of priests', 'a holy nation' and 'a special possession' should lead to a humbling reality and realisation of a powerful destiny, sharing in divine authority and exercising spiritual responsibility. That, in turn, is expressed in glorious unity and should be marked by unique characteristics displayed by being distinctive – manifesting the life that can only be generated in us by God the Holy Spirit for a specific purpose, viz. to declare God's praise.

That is the church's amazing testimony.

A Passion for Life

The first joint meeting of Milngavie churches to prepare for the project leading up to Easter featured a number of videos which stimulated discussion and prayer. These – and others in the series – can be seen on the website (<https://www.apassionforlife.org.uk>) for any who want to go over the teaching again. Copies of the Notes can also be made available. The next session will be on Saturday morning, 12th February, from 10am until 12 noon.

Ladies Meeting

The Ladies meet again this Thursday at 2pm when Helena Bryce will be speaking.

Bible Study

Our Bible Study series on Deuteronomy will be continued by Zoom on Thursday evening at 7 30pm. The focus this week will be on Chapter 4.

From the Elders

The Elders met last Monday and gave consideration to several important issues as they seek to steer the Fellowship through these challenging days. Here are two proposals.

Church Data Base.

We are about to update our current data base which contains names of members and adherents, with addresses and contact details. We do not publish this information or share it with any other source. However if you wish your name and details to be excluded, please speak to or advise Jim Gourley.

Elders / members & adherents.

Following the death of David Jack, we require to reallocate people to one of the elders for pastoral oversight. This is currently being done and new lists will be issued shortly.

People and Prayer:

Please continue to pray for those in our Fellowship – and beyond - who are in great need of the Lord's help in these days. Names mentioned recently are: Christine Harvey, Margaret Stewart, Manuel and Ava, Inga, Jean Malkin, Ann Jones, Christine Macleod and Elizabeth Gemmell. We also remember the various agencies, like Hope for Glasgow and City Mission, SU and SAT-7 and the many, many, persecuted Christians across the world.

Toddler Time

Toddler Time, now run by Margaret Baird and Flora MacInnes, has been going for 30 years. It is a key activity making provision for, and a point of contact with, families as a means of introducing them to the church and the prospect of hearing the gospel. Margaret writes: *Our aim is to give the adults a place to chat, make friends, the children to play, and learn to mix and share with other children. It is also a chance to get to know the adults and share the love of Jesus with them.*

Run by Margaret Baird and Flora MacInnes, with help from Mary Clarke, Allyson Flett, Laraine Gourley, Christine Harvey, Ann Lyall, Isabel Nicol, Christine Stephenson, Rosemary Sutherland and Margaret Smith, the children play with toys, paint or do craft. *We have a short 'Thought for the Day' before coffee time and spend 15 minutes singing, ending with "Jesus' love is very wonderful". Mary Mackinnon plays the piano for us when she can.*

The adults say we are welcoming and friendly and do freely chat to us about things going on in their lives. Over the years people felt confident to send their children to the Wednesday Hashtag and Holiday Clubs. Please pray that people will respond to the gospel. Our desire is to see families coming to the church.

Maryhill – Advanced Notice

You are invited to the 126th Anniversary evening of Maryhill Evangelical Church on Saturday, 12th February, at 7pm, when the speaker is John Macleod with musical items from Ministry in Song.

We value the association we have with our friends at Maryhill and continue to pray that God will bless the people there and their ministry in the community.

Finally,

Scientists warn us that the Doomsday clock is at 100 seconds to midnight. This assumption is based on their analysis of what is happening in world events and how much these things are contributing to the end of the world. It is a very gloomy scenario but for Christians it is not a strange concept. The Lord has always prepared us for the reality of the end of this world, but unlike the scientists the Lord does not just give the warning that the world will end, HE gives hope that we can be part of a glorious new creation if we have faith in Jesus Christ. We do not have to be governed by the fear of the Doomsday clock, but by the hope of the appointed time of Christ's return; for if we put our trust in Him we will never be put to shame.

John Macleod