



## ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

### FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

29<sup>th</sup> March, 2021

#### Sunday Sermon: Palm Sunday

Naturally, and continuing the study on the aspects of the life of Jesus, the focus on this Sunday was on the Triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem where the crowd hailed him with shouts of Hosanna and waved palm branches in his honour.

Taking the intriguing title – *'The hero you get is not the hero you want'* John explained how oppressed societies and even depressed individuals look for a hero who will come and meet their perceived needs. National fervour was such that it fed on the stories of Jesus' wonderful works of healing and teaching. The expectation was that here, at last, was their King, the one who would restore national pride, the one who would bring 'deliverance to the captives'. Palm branches and Hosannas were fitting, tributes to such a Messiah.

But, they were mistaken. While their expectations were for a Champion, Jesus came as a humble servant, riding on a donkey. He came to fulfil a mission, as the Zechariah prophecy foretold. He came to bring peace; salvation for every nation, not just the Jews; and to shed his blood for the redemption of humanity, thus conquering death and Satan.

So what should our response be? The crowd was disappointed and so cried out 'Crucify him'. Yet, he had come to bring salvation and, after his vicarious death and triumphal resurrection will, in due course, return again one day as the Mighty King. So, on this Palm Sunday, it is important to understand that, to 'believe in him', and to offer our grateful praise.

#### Back in Church

With lockdown now being eased we were able to meet in church yesterday morning once again, albeit with restrictions which are likely to apply for some time. But, it is good to be able to meet together after all this absence. It will take some getting used to again.



#### Holy Week

Services are being held each evening at 7 pm for Milngavie United Churches' Holy Week around the theme: The Servant of the Lord, based on Isaiah 53.

Here is the schedule of meetings, speakers and topics for the Holy Week Services:

- Monday, 29<sup>th</sup>, The Exalted Servant, Isaiah 52: 13-15; Douglas Campbell
- Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup>, The Suffering Servant, 53: 1-3, Ramsay Shields
- Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup>, The Humble Servant, 53: 4-9, John Macleod
- Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April, The Glorious Servant, 53: 10-12, Fergus Buchanan
- Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April, The Forsaken Servant, Psalm 22, John Wilson

The general link is:

<https://www.milngavie.church/holyweek/>  
with further detail for each day on the church website. Allander church will be open for viewing the YouTube service on the big screens. The Wednesday broadcast will be live from there.

### **Prayer Meeting and Bible Study**

With Holy Week services each evening there will be no Prayer meeting on Tuesday or Bible Study on Thursday this week. The morning prayer sessions on Wednesday and Friday will continue as normal.

### **#One2Seven**

The last of the Easter series will be broadcast on Wednesday at 6 30pm but is accessible on the church website if anyone wants to see it. We are grateful for this opportunity to maintain the witness to children but are a little disappointed at the limited response. Thanks to all those who have taken part.

### **Easter Fellowship**

This Easter Sunday we will have another Fellowship Evening on Zoom at 6 30pm to reflect on the theme: *The Road to Emmaus*, with several people taking part and sharing their thoughts.

### **Finally,**

The Covid 19 restriction which has possibly affected us most is the one limiting physical meeting and enjoying fellowship, as the new Christians did in Acts 2: 42. Although the use of modern technology allowed a kind of fellowship via the internet it altered the nature of Christian fellowship from a dynamic to a more restricted and static form.

However, John writes in 1 John 1:3 about something more than human fellowship when he writes about '*fellowship with God the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ*'. John is convinced that we must know the reality of fellowship with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ before we can know the reality of fellowship with each other in our common relationship to God.

May we all know and have a desire to strengthen our fellowship with God the Father, God the Son and with each other.

David Jack

### **Mission of Month for April?**

The Slavic Gospel Association will be our Mission-of-the Month for April. It was started by Peter Deyneka reaching out to Slavic displaced persons after World War II. Since then, it has grown and developed into reaching out among Slavs across Europe and Asia. Last month we heard from Mark Foster of the 70 new recruits enlisted to celebrate its 70-year history.

### **Faith Mission Prayer Union**

Our monthly FM prayer time will take place by Zoom on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> April at 7 30pm.

### **Scripture Union**

Sadly, the 1-Day Camps which SU had planned to offer over the Easter break have had to be cancelled and the workers placed on flexi-furlough until restrictions allow such outdoor activities.

### **Pray for:**

Those on our regular list and especially for Jim Gourley, who undergoes an operation at Gartnavel on Tuesday morning at 7 45am, and for John Macleod, still not clear from his infection.