



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

5th December, 2022

Sunday Sermon: Giving Thanks

For practical reasons it has not been possible to summarise yesterday's sermon, the first in a series on The Emotions of Christmas. DV, that will be covered next week.

In its place here is a summary of Greg Ferguson's sermon from last Sunday evening drawing lessons from the incident where ten lepers were healed but only one returned to give thanks. *"And he was a Samaritan"*.

We were challenged as to what do we normally expect from God: emergency help when in need or an ongoing relationship.

None of these lepers could be regarded as a 'worthy' recipient. They were a community of rejects with all the stigma of being diseased. Yet, they sought help from Jesus and mercifully got it, not by an instantaneous miracle but by an instruction to be followed. When they responded, healing gradually took place. True salvation is like that – it is responding by faith and obedience to the commands of the gospel to repent and to believe.

Yet, only the one who returned to give thanks received the full blessing of an ongoing relationship. In the same way we, when we respond with thankfulness, can experience forgiveness, acceptance, adoption, purpose, identity and hope.

While it begins with that initial response to the gospel message of salvation through Christ's work on Calvary, there is so much more when that is followed by faith, commitment and thankfulness.

John Macleod

Jim Gourley writes on behalf of the Elders and the church.

By this coming Sunday John Macleod will have served as our Pastor for 13 years. We wish to express our thanks to John and Carol for their ministry at Allander over this period of time and for the blessing their ministry has been to us as a church.

Faith Mission Prayer Meeting

The last monthly Prayer Meeting of this year for the work of the Faith Mission will be held tonight at 7 30 in Margaret Russell's home at 53 Roman Road, Bearsden, G61 2SG

Bible Study

Booklets summarising the studies in the Book of Acts we have been considering on Thursday nights since September are available at the table in the Entrance Hall. They cover chapters 1 – 12. Studies will resume, DV, in the New Year starting with the Missionary Journeys in Chapter 13.

Christmas Arrangements

Special arrangements will apply to our services over Christmas seeing that Christmas Day falls on a Sunday.

On Sunday 18th December the 10 30 gathering will be an All-Age Service. It will be followed by Christmas Lunch in the Back Hall.

The 6 30 Service will take the form of a Christmas Praise Evening with the Community Choir taking part.

Except for the Café and the Prayer meetings the other activities will not be taking place during the week beginning 18th December but will resume in the New Year.

On Saturday, 24th December – Christmas Eve – we will be hosting Carols by Candlelight starting at 7pm

That will be followed on Sunday morning with a Christmas Day Service at 10 30. No refreshments will be served at the close.

There will be no Communion on Sundays 18th and 25th December.

The Morning Prayer Times will continue each Wednesday and Friday morning from 9 until 9 30am until Friday 23rd December and then start again on Wednesday 11th January 2023.

The Tuesday evening Church Prayer Meeting will continue each Tuesday at 8 pm as usual.

There will be no Café on Wednesday 28th December.

Milngavie Churches Christmas Tree Festival

This event, organised by the Association of Milngavie Churches, will be held in St Paul's throughout this week with the church open from 10 until 4 each day. There is a programme of musical background arranged and refreshments are available in the Hall.

Christian Viewpoint

The next meeting of the Ladies' Christian Viewpoint will be at Allander on Wednesday 7th December with a light lunch at 12 45pm followed by Terry McCutcheon of Hope for Glasgow as the Speaker.

Mission of the Month

Having contributed £500 to Blythwood during November, in addition to the 46 boxes donated, this month we support Release International. Offerings can be placed in the Missionary Box at the back of the church.

AGM

Reports were given at the AGM covering Ministry, Finance, Pastoral and Maintenance, with due thanks to the many involved. In a time of reflection which followed, a clear focus emerged on the need for concentrated prayer for guidance and the Holy Spirit's enabling for the way ahead. Several shared their concerns and conviction of the need for real commitment and the intervention of God if the work is to continue to prosper as an effective witness

Church Library

This now fully operational with a range of books available to borrow and read over Christmas and the New Year.

Finally,

"God's Word" is true because God's character is true. To doubt the truthfulness of God's Word is to doubt the truthfulness of God himself. If the Bible isn't fully reliable at every point, how can we be certain it is fully reliable at any point? It has been said that Scripture is shallow enough for a child to wade into, but, deep enough for an elephant to swim in. It has been rightly said that the Old Testament is Jesus Christ *concealed* and the New Testament is Jesus Christ *revealed*. To abandon reading it is to abandon God. Until Jesus returns and our faith becomes sight, we must live by what God says to us. *"Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God"*.

Sandy Allan