



## ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

### FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

6<sup>th</sup> December, 2021

#### Sunday Sermon: Psalm 138

Continuing the series on Advent from the Psalms, John focused on Psalm 138 under the intriguing title of *Christmas Treats*.

At a time of the year when thoughts of giving and receiving gifts are uppermost in people's minds, this Psalm reminds us of the gifts that come to us from God as we appreciate his purposes and actions in everyday experiences. Here, David gives thanks to God for:

**An everlasting kingdom.** Surrounded by 'gods', often depicted as idols, the Psalm reminds us that in the birth of Jesus God "*gave his only begotten Son*". He was the greatest gift possible in fulfilment of the promise that a Messiah would come and that in Jesus there would be the beginning of an eternal kingdom – the kingdom of God.

David also recognised **an exalted word**. The only hope for a deluded humanity is in what God says. Elsewhere, the Psalmist declares that "*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path*". And Jesus said, "*The words I speak, they are life*".

As the nativity announcement was made to Mary in humble circumstances so the gift of God's word comes to us as **an expression of help** in the ordinary experiences of life. These are frequently identified with difficult times and moments of despair but they breathe life.

And, in their potency, they declare **an expectation of purpose** as we rejoice in the truth of Immanuel – God with us.

*Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift.*

#### Faith Mission Prayer Meeting

A reminder that this month's Faith Mission Prayer meeting will be held on Zoom tonight (Monday) at 7 30pm.

#### Mission of the Month

Our offering in support of SAT-7, our Mission cause for November, amounted to £500. This sum has been matched by "The Big Give" so that SAT-7 will receive £1,000 to support their work in the Middle East and North Africa. Thank you to all who contributed. Please continue to pray for the work of SAT-7.

December's Mission of the Month is The Space in Govanhill. A presentation of the work it undertakes was given by Margo Upritchard at the morning service last Sunday

#### New Members

Manuel and Ava Aldegunde and Howel and Ann Jones, who have been faithful participants in most of the church's activities over the past three years, were recognised as formal members of Allander at yesterday's morning service.

#### AGM Report

The church's AGM was held on Thursday evening at the church and simultaneously on Zoom. The overall theme was gratitude to God for his faithfulness in enabling so much witness and fellowship to be maintained and developed despite the restrictions and challenging circumstances of the second pandemic year. Thanks were also expressed to the many who

work so hard in maintaining the church's ministry through different activities.

### **Bible Study extras?**

The regular series of Bible Studies has concluded for this year but two extra sessions are being held on Zoom on Thursdays starting with this Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> December, at 7 30pm. Both will focus on Biblical references to the coming of Jesus as the Messiah.

This week we will share any references to the coming of the Messiah found in the Old Testament, and consider their implications and application to our hope.

### **United Advent Meetings**

The united Milngavie churches' Advent Services continue this week at St Luke's when Fergus Buchanan will conduct the penultimate session on 2 Thessalonians 3.

Next week's service will be at St Pauls and will take the form of Lessons and Carols conducted by Douglas Campbell of the UF church.

### **Anniversary**

This week will mark the twelfth year of John Macleod's ministry as our Pastor. We do give God thanks for the years he has ministered here and also what he has

done in the community and in other places. Please continue to pray for John, Carol, Andrew and Bethany.

### **Allander Christmas Choir**

"Your choir needs you for the Christmas Service! Would you like to be part of the Allander Voice Christmas Choir which will sing at the Christmas Service on Sunday morning, at 10 30am on 19<sup>th</sup> December? The commitment is to learn two songs and attend one zoom session between now and then. If you are interested, please speak to Gayle in person or call 07740 467235. All ages and stages welcome - just a love of singing" 🎵

### **Christmas Meetings**

Normal arrangements for the various services will continue this week with: Toddlers and church-based (and Zoom) Prayer Meeting on Tuesday; Zoom prayer time, Drop-In Café and #One2Seven on Wednesday, Bible Study extra on Thursday at 7 30; Zoom prayer time on Friday morning; Sunday Morning Worship; and united Advent Service at night.

There will be changes in place for the following weeks leading up to Christmas.

### **Finally,**

The greatest story ever told is the Christmas story. As we look around our world today and here over the past two years, we are once again in another Christmas crisis with COVID. As Christians, we have so much to rejoice about in the birth of Jesus, but let us not forget he was born to die for our sins. He is our Wonderful Counsellor and he is always with us. He is with us in all circumstances of our lives. We have the great assurance he is there for us. Our joy comes from knowing him in our lives. He is a mighty God who rules over all the earth. He is our Eternal Father. He is with us at all times. It doesn't end at Christmas. He is the Prince of peace. Let us not forget this special Christmas time for those who don't know Jesus. May we continue to pray that many will come to know him over this Christmas time.

Jim Flett

***For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called. Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of peace. (Is. 9: 6)***