



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

6th February, 2023

Sunday Sermon: Colossians 3: 12 - 17

The visiting speaker yesterday was Sam Gordon who based his sermon on Colossians 3 and its presentation of Jesus as the full embodiment of God, and the implications of that for Christian living.

The earlier verses in the chapter speak of Living with Christ (1-4), Living in Christ (5-7) followed by Living for Christ (13-17), with verse 12 emphasising the need to Live like Christ as a consequence of the transformation that takes place when we receive Christ as our Saviour.

Jesus changes people. The outcome of that transformation "*from the inside out*" giving believers a unique position as special people in the eyes of God and also significant in today's world.

That privileged position, resulting from saving faith in the gospel, means that we are chosen to be loved by God and to be lights in the world in which we find ourselves.

With that confidence, knowing that we are numbered among his redeemed, we have an obligation to live like the Lord Jesus by demonstrating – as He did – compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. We should bear with one another, forgiving whatever grievances there might be, and above all practise divine love. Difficult though that may be, the peace of God and His indwelling word will help us.

Being loved by God is a great privilege bestowed by grace. Receiving that love and responding to it practically is an ongoing responsibility.

This Week

The usual activities take place this week with Toddlers and Prayer Meeting on Tuesday, Drop-In Café and Hashtag / Youth Challenge on Wednesday, Zoom Prayer Time on Wednesday and Friday from 9 – 930am, and Bible Study (Acts 15) on Thursday. Please pray for them.

Faith Mission

The monthly Prayer Union for the Faith Mission will be held at Betty Mackay's home at 44 St Germain's, Bearsden, G61 2RS tonight at 7 30pm. Transport can be provided if necessary.

Ladies Meeting

The ladies meet again on Thursday afternoon from 2 to 3 pm for their bi-weekly meeting. The speaker this week is Moira Robertson.

Maryhill Anniversary

Our friends at Maryhill, with whom we have very close fellowship, hold their Anniversary services this weekend with a Rally on Saturday evening at 7pm featuring music by John Kirk and followed by a cup of tea and fellowship. The Sunday morning service is at 11 am. Gordon Thomson is the guest speaker at both meetings.

This not only marks their 127th year as a fellowship but the end of a year when they have been 'on their own' without the involvement of Twenty Schemes who withdrew from the work early last year. It has meant a heavy burden on the faithful few but they have been very diligent in

maintaining the witness, especially among the children, over these many months.

Next Sunday

With Street Connect as our Mission of the Month during February the services on Sunday will be taken by Ricky McAddock who, with his wife Julie, heads up this vital work with the homeless and disadvantaged in the Greater Glasgow area

Prayer:

While there is much to discourage in national and international affairs in these days with rampant godlessness we have been reminded that God is at work and so our prayers should be positively seeking greater opportunity for, and evidence of, the power of God in operation. Some of that is in relation to ministry activity: some in relation to overcoming personal challenges as we pray for Ian Baird, Mary Clark, George Cowan, Allyson Flett, Terry Gallagher, Jim Gourley, Jack and Christine Harvey, Margaret Russell, David Wilson; and others.

Inga

Here are some of the latest items from Inga and Sue's weekly prayer letter from Mexico.

Inga has been revising Galatians with the Nuxaá team. They are checking key terms in Mixtec and making them consistent

with other Epistles. They also finished revising Philemon

Inga has continued revising the paper comparing how conditional clauses work in different languages, including Greek and Mixtec.

Inga's meeting with the other staff members of the linguistics training program in the UK went well. She has a lot of work to prepare for the course that she will be teaching mid-April to the end of May. She is the course head.

Platform 67

At last week's Prayer meeting Martin Dudgeon of Platform 67, brought insights of what is happening in various parts of the world. Emphasising the responsibility for mission in terms of outreach overseas to other nations, he described various approaches adopted by groups they support to communicate the gospel in lands where persecution and restriction dominate. These include the provision of recorded messages on miniature devices, adaptation of sign languages and even using portions of the Bible as reading material when testing free reading glasses in China!.

Mission of the Month

£655 was collected for The Christian Institute during January. Street Connect is this month's Mission of the Month.

Finally,

"But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days" 2 Timothy 3 v 1. At times it feels that suffering and struggles have become the norm rather than the exception. There is barely a household that does not have some kind of issue or struggle to deal with and the range of difficulties seems to be multiplying. Thankfully, the Word of God prepares us for such days by telling us they would come and encouraging us to be ready for them and to be ready for their conclusion when Jesus comes. Whatever may be troubling us at this time may we find the strength of Jesus in the midst of the struggles and lean on him more and more until we find our perfect rest in His eternal presence.

John Macleod