



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

6th September, 2021

Sunday Sermon Isaiah 6: 8

Today's question in the series *Questions God asks* was not spoken directly to, but overheard by, Isaiah.

The background is one of deterioration in the national situation. King Uzziah had died. The prospect for the future was bleak. The effect on Isaiah was one of despair and despondency.

But, at that moment, he sees a vision of God in His Holiness and power that totally changes his perspective.

Through the vision, he sees the sovereignty of God in all his power and majesty. Whatever was happening in the temporal sphere is overshadowed by the eternal majesty of an Almighty God.

That powerful God is holy. He is both separate and distinct: unique in his perfection; acknowledged by the angels.

The impact of that on Isaiah was devastating. He felt undone and aware of his own total inadequacy and sinfulness.

Yet, in that brokenness Isaiah hears the question coming from God: *Whom shall I send and who will go for us*". Responding to that question by saying "*Here am I, send me*" Isaiah discovers that this God is merciful, taking coal from the altar of sacrifice, he provides the cleansing for Isaiah and so empowers him to be commissioned as the conveyor of God's message of redemption.

It is seeing that God, his majesty, holiness and mercy, that is the powerful motivator for us to commit ourselves to service in pursuit of the fulfilling of God's purpose.

Start Up Week

Last week saw the launch and resumption of several activities. There were a few visitors at the Drop In on Wednesday morning. Hopefully this will increase as the activity settles and becomes known. Eight children came to #One2Seven along with several helpers. Very encouraging.

Toddler Time

After a long absence, Toddler Time will resume on Tuesday morning from 9 30 to 11 am. Remember Margaret and Flora and their team of helpers. They will value our prayers.

Faith Mission

The monthly Milngavie and Bearsden Faith Mission Prayer meeting will be held on Zoom tonight (6th September) at 7 30pm.

Prayer and Bible Study

The Tuesday **Prayer Meeting** now meets regularly in the church but is also accessible on Zoom. Both the Wednesday and Friday sessions from 9 00 to 9 30am will continue on Zoom.

The **Bible Study** continues on Thursday night at 7 30 on Zoom with an overview of the Book of Exodus. The 'homework' is to share reflections on incidents or lessons from that book which have been a blessing.

September Meetings

John will be away for two Sundays in September doing Deputation work for Children for Christ in Harris and Lewis. During his absence, Jim Gourley will take

the morning service on the 19th September, Howel Jones on the morning of the 26th and Gordon Thomson the evening service that day.

The evening service on the 19th will be more informal with a focus on Bible Study taking the theme: "Thy word have I hid in my heart". Howel will lead the service, which will include Communion, and provide an outline of the Bible's message. That will be followed by some structured sharing by participants in the Bible Study sessions of the last year, reflecting on how a closer study of the Word has helped them in their Christian lives.

Mission of the Month

The Mission of the Month for September is Hope for Glasgow led by Terry McCutcheon who was with us a few Sundays ago. He shares several prayer points which we plan to include next week.

Mission of the Month Giving

During August our giving to the Scottish Bible Society amounted to £300. Over the last twelve months we have gifted a total of **£8280** to 17 Christian causes or individuals. The sum of **£3000** coming as a tithe from the late Anne Wilson's legacy to 6 causes, the rest coming from giving to the Mission Cause of the Month.

Giving by Gift Aid allows the church to recover 25% from the Government. This helps the church in two ways, firstly it increases the General Fund and secondly it allows us to round up giving to causes to a meaningful amount.

If you give by Gift Aid please consider using the envelope system for the Mission of the Month or if you pay direct into the bank simply identify your gift as Mission of the Month.

Fellowship Prayer

David Jack is waiting to be moved to Milngavie Manor Care Home subject to isolation and related safeguards. That, sadly, means no visiting while it is in force.

Inga is making good use of her respite in South Dakota. Medically, she gets her vaccinations and dental treatment and, academically, she is able to finalise her training duties and paper for conferences.

Others of our folk, still experiencing loneliness, coping with challenging conditions and situations, etc, value our prayer support.

As do the many agencies working in strife torn lands where so many Christians are facing severe persecution.

Finally,

"The world is in a mess". I overheard that comment recently and was tempted to interject into a conversation I was not a part of! The person sounded genuinely concerned for the state of the world and I guess there are many more like her. The problem of course is that whilst we can identify the mess, we struggle to find a solution. We see people in politics and media pushing various agendas that they probably genuinely believe are going to alleviate the mess, but the truth is, the mess will remain and even get worse until the only One who can truly do anything about it returns to the earth. Maybe the church of the 21st Century needs to resound the chorus of the church of the 1st Century and raise the refrain; "Come Lord Jesus, Come."

John Macleod

ooooooooOooooooooo