



## ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

### FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

7<sup>th</sup> February, 2022

#### Sunday Sermon: Wholly devoted

John McKinnon, the visiting speaker yesterday, challenged us to wholehearted devotion to God based on the example in Leviticus 1: 1-9 of presenting offerings to the Lord and backed up by Paul's exhortation to the Ephesians to "*be imitators of God*" in their devotion and to the Romans: "*present your bodies as a living sacrifice, which is your reasonable service*".

It is easy to regard offering to God, whether financial or devotional, as being obligatory, a duty done, boxes ticked. But, in reality, it should be a spontaneous expression based on gratitude for all that God has done for us.

When done like that, in committed, wholehearted, devotion, it is a "*sweet smelling savour, an aroma pleasing to God*"; for "*Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul my life, my all*".

In Leviticus, the people had to bring their own offering, process it and burn it on the altar. However, Christ became our offering at Calvary and voluntarily accepted the transfer of our sin on himself.

In response to that great love we come to an appreciation of the sovereign grace of God, his majestic holiness and his awesome nearness, making it possible to come into his presence and present ourselves, gladly and willingly, as "**living sacrifices**" in full and glad surrender.

To close the service, having taken part in Communion, with the hymn, "Take my life" was a real blessing and re-dedication.

#### Faith Mission

Rejuvenate, the FM outreach for young people, was held at the church on Saturday night with over 20 young people present.

The Milngavie and Bearsden Faith Mission Prayer Meeting will be held tonight (7<sup>th</sup> February) at 7 30pm on Zoom.

#### Ladies Meeting

The Ladies' Meeting will be held this Thursday at 2pm when the speaker will be Cathy Steed.

*Allander Ladies Meeting has been meeting now for over 70 years. The purpose and goal is to present the gospel of Jesus Christ to the ladies in the community, and to offer friendship and fellowship over tea/coffee. We enjoy a variety of speakers, each one bringing to us God's Word. The meeting is held every 2 weeks. Christine Stephenson heads this meeting, along with a great team of workers. Betty McKay and Janice Allan (Chair) alternative weeks, Margaret Russell/Christine Stephenson (Kitchen) Nessie Duffus/Ann Lyle (Treasurers) Esther McColl (Piano) and Mary Linton (Register). This team is assisted by great volunteers who help to pour tea and clear up. Allander Ladies' Meeting is an important meeting in the church life of Allander and we value your prayers for this outreach.*

#### A Passion for Life

Following John McKinnon's helpful presentation of the aims and activities of the national Passion for Life, the next preparation session for Milngavie

churches will be held here at Allander on Saturday morning (12<sup>th</sup> February) from 10 until 12 noon.

### **Maryhill Anniversary**

A reminder that our good friends at Maryhill Evangelical Church celebrate 126 years of gospel witness in that area on Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> February at 7 pm. This is a good opportunity to join with them and to show appreciation for the way they support our activities. The speaker for the weekend is our own John Macleod.

### **Sunday Service**

With John speaking at Maryhill our service on Sunday morning will be taken by Jim Gourley. Communion will be in the evening.

### **People and Prayer**

We continue to pray for our folk who are experiencing health issues or going through challenging times: Joyce Kyle, Margaret Stewart, Laraine Gourley, James and Allyson Flett, Christine Macleod, Ian Baird, Inga McKendry and her colleagues in Oaxaca, Janice Allan waiting knee surgery, Mary Linton and others.

### **Bible Study**

Danny reminded us at the Bible Study that we should hear, listen and obey the words that God speaks to us.

Chapters for this week are: Deuteronomy 9 - 12

### **Finally,**

During recent preparations for a funeral I came across a quote from Pastor Stephen Davey of Shepherds Church, North Carolina, which said "Grief is love with nowhere to go". It is quite a profound statement and underlines the pain that we experience when the ties of life are severed. Whilst death means love can never be shared again with the person who has passed from this life, it is a blessing to know that our grief can be poured into the heart of God and whereas we truly grieve we do not grieve as those without hope for as long as we have GOD to turn to our heart always has somewhere to go. As the hymn writer says, "What a privilege to carry **everything** to God in prayer".

John Macleod

### **Prayer**

We have been reminded over recent weeks of the importance of prayer and given encouragement on different ways to engage in prayer. These include:

- Private prayer: making sure of time spent alone with God each day and for every eventuality.
- Corporate Prayer: appreciating the value of not only meeting together with others to pray but also collectively exercising that united approach to the Throne for God's help in all the activities. Our Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday prayer times have been very encouraging.
- Purposeful Prayer. Although it is true that "we have a Friend in Jesus" the purpose of prayer is not to address our needs but to see God's "*kingdom come*" and his "*will being done on earth*".
- Passionate Prayer: It is an essential exercise that "*demands my soul, my life, my all*".

### **Mission of the Month**

This month's cause is Word for Today with Sam Gordon's Bible teaching work across many nations.