



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

7th November, 2022

Sunday Sermon: Esther 8

With the remarkable turn of events told in the Book of Esther, when Mordecai's evil plans for the destruction of the Jews were thwarted, we now come to the wonderful theme of **God's Effective Deliverance**. And that through a secular king in the non-sympathetic context of Babylonia. How does the story end?

It begins with **establishing the identity of God's people**. Having kept quiet about her nationality for so long Esther now reveals and revels in it, having been recognised and acknowledged, along with Mordecai, and acknowledged as being wealthy and powerful in her own right.

In that exalted status, thus identified, she **exercised empathy**, for the devastating decree of Mordechai against the Jews still stood. So Esther pleaded with the king to annul this ruling.

That was done by Mordecai and Esther being enabled to issue an **inspirational edict** which reversed the position and gave them authority to destroy the enemies of God's people: the very opposite of Haman's evil intent.

The edict was not only for self-preservation but had an **evangelistic impact** when many of those who realised what was happening took advantage of this "*offer of grace*" and became true worshippers.

That story encourages us to intercede for others and to see the resurrection power of God at work as He desires to see all men come to repentance – and find life.

Blythswood

Thank you to everyone who filled shoeboxes and delivered them in time for the Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal lorry to pick them up today. These, along with boxes donated by other churches, will be delivered to needy folk in Eastern Europe in time for Christmas. Pray for their safe transportation.

Mission of the Month

Blythswood Care is our Mission of the Month for November. Cash donations can be made in the normal way until Sunday 27th November in the box at the back of the church both for help with transport costs and for the wider work.

SAT-7

Last month £675 was donated as our Mission of the Month contribution to SAT-7 and the wonderful work they do in beaming the gospel by satellite to countries in MENA (Middle East and North Africa)

Faith Mission Prayer Union

The Milngavie and Bearsden Prayer Union for the Faith Mission will be held tonight, Monday, 7th November, at the home of Jim and Allyson Flett at 20 Craighead Drive, G62 7SD on the Mains Estate at 7 30pm. It is hoped that Zoom access may be available but not certain. Transport can be arranged if necessary. Contact Howel at 0141 956 5866.

Weekly Activities

Toddlers and the Café are on again this week with good numbers attending.

Hashtag is attracting good numbers and the extra session for Secondary age children is proving to be helpful. Thanks to Simon and Hannah for their hard work and to those who help them in this excellent venture.

Bible Study

This week we come to Acts 9 and the momentous conversion of Saul on the road to Damascus. Manuel will help bring us through the details of that event and highlight its lessons. On Zoom, 7 30 on Thursday.

Remembrance Sunday

The morning worship service on Remembrance Sunday - 13th November will commence at 10am (until 10 30) . This will be followed by the Royal British Legion service in Milngavie Town Centre at 10.50am.

The Church will be open to serve refreshments after both services.

Pray for

Terry Gallagher, quite seriously unwell in hospital, and his wife Joan at this time.

Christmas

While we rejoice at this season remembering the coming of God into our world as Emmanuel - God with us - the world is indulging itself in festivity, indulging itself in soporific pleasure rather than embracing the life giving potential of new life in the Lord Jesus. Well can we echo the words – *“O come to my heart,*

Lord Jesus, there is room in my heart for Thee.”

The Christian Institute

The final two meetings of the Christian Institute’s Autumn Tour emphasising their theme: Fighting for the Family will be held at The Tron Church in Kelvingrove tonight and at Woodhill Evangelical Church in Bishopbriggs on Wednesday at 7 30 pm.

Gender Recognition Reform Bill

While the Scottish Parliament has approved the bill’s main purpose in principle there is still time to write to your constituency MSPs urging them to exercise caution against being pressurised to meet the needs of a vocal minority. The Christian Institute has good advice on what and how to write in a constructive way.

Community Magazine

The church again will have an advert in the December edition of the Community Magazine presenting the message of Christmas in this secular age and listing our special services over the Christmas period. Regular activities continue to be listed in the What’s On section. Details will also appear on the church website in due course. Pray for their effectiveness.

SGA Prayer Meeting

On Friday, 18th November in Margaret Russell’s home at 7 30pm.

Finally,

When the great Scottish missionary David Livingstone returned to his native land his health was very poor having over a period of 16 years suffered from 27 fevers. His left arm hung helpless by his side having been mauled by a lion. Speaking to students at Glasgow University, he said, “Shall I tell you what sustained me during the hardship and loneliness of my exile? It was Christ’s promise “Lo I am with you always even to the end of the world“. Today that promise is ours as well. No matter what trials we face, Christ never leaves us. He is with us every step of the way! Let’s keep that promise with us today and always.

Jim Gourley