



## ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

### FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

9<sup>th</sup> August, 2021

#### Sunday Sermon: Genesis 3: 1 - 21

Starting a new series on *When God asks Questions*, in yesterday's sermon John focused on the first question in Genesis: Where are you?

God does not ask question because he is lacking information but in order to evoke a response. The point of asking Adam 'Where are you' is to get him to see where he is in terms of his relationship to God.

The implicit answer to the question in this instance is that Adam is hiding among the trees. Because of what has happened prior to this, Adam is feeling guilty and fearful of appearing in God's presence. Possibly because of this awareness he and Eve 'make garments' for themselves to hide their nakedness. That is in contrast to the idyllic picture described at the end of chapter 2 where God freely met with Adam for fellowship 'in the cool of the day'. That is the natural state of humanity to this day – conscious of being guilty before God and fearful of his presence.

In its intention, the question was not punitive, but redemptive. God was looking for confession. Significantly, God 'made' other and better garments for humanity – from skins that implied the sacrifice of animals to produce them.

That question is being asked of us today. Where are we in relation to God? If we are honest before God, our behaviour can be one of guilt and fear that we, too, are far from where we should be. But we have a saving God who is ready to clothe us with 'garments of salvation' if we confess, repent and believe.

#### Mission of the Month

Over the past two months contributions have been made to the representation work of the Christian Institute and the work of MAD Ministries. In June the sum of £400 was sent to the Christian Institute and in July £300 to MAD Ministries.

The Mission of the Month for August is **The Scottish Bible Society**. As well as distributing Scriptures across many countries, the SBS is developing some very interesting materials in digital form. Mark Girvan – who with his wife Justine – has been worshipping with us at Allander for a few months is involved in its promotion.

#### Children's Work

One of the encouraging developments over the summer has been contact with Simon and Hannah Snodgrass, a young couple serving with Child Evangelism Fellowship here in Scotland, who are willing to come and help us with the Children's Work, starting with the #One2Seven Wednesday evening services at Allander. They will be joining us this Sunday at our morning service where they will be introduced to us and share something of their testimony and calling.

#### Come, let us join our cheerful songs

The return of being able to sing again in our services has been most welcome. 'Secret soloists' can now sing openly and share in the vocalisation of the words of these hymns. And it is good to have Esther and Morag back on piano and guitar in the mornings and Jim McKellar in the evenings

## People, Programmes and Prayer

Last week we gave an extended list for prayer. Please continue to remember all these and also the new beginnings envisaged for the next few months.

### New Activities end of August

With August here and its more traditional 'summer' weather, after the glorious sunshine of recent weeks, our thoughts are turning to the resumption – and even starting up – of different activities.

The second of the 'keeping-in-touch' Bible Studies will be held by Zoom on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> August at 7 30pm.

A new Drop-In at the church will be launched on Wednesday September 1<sup>st</sup> from 10 30 to 12 30pm. The intention is to reach out into the community and promote contact with the church. 500 or so invitation cards have been printed and are available for distribution.

The new session of #One2Seven will commence that same evening at 6 30pm with Simon and Hannah being involved along with our own helpers. Letters will have gone to schools advertising these events.

And with the further easing of restrictions, midweek services may be relocated back in the church (along with complementary Zoom) from 24<sup>th</sup> August forward. Details of these arrangements are yet to be finalised.

### Finally,

One of the shared experiences of life that I have heard from several people is the way in which booking a holiday no longer brings the joy it once did. Pre-Covid, you booked your break, and it gave you something to look forward to. Since the pandemic, you book your break, and it becomes one more thing to worry about! This of course is because of all the Covid uncertainties, but, in reality, nothing has changed for the future has always been uncertain but we have been accustomed to stability and things working out. However Jesus encouraged us to know, that even though we don't know on what day or in what hour it will happen, there is an unchangeable certainty in our future; He will return.

John Macleod

## Week of Prayer

Conscious that things cannot be the same as we slowly come out from the pandemic and its restrictions, it has been decided to hold a special Week of prayer from August 22<sup>nd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>. The words spoken to Joshua – *you have not passed this way before* – make us aware that we need both God's guidance and God's help as we move forward. The purpose of dedicating this week to pray is to do just that: to seek His help and wait for Him. Details for the week are to follow.

### Newsletter

Throughout the pandemic the Newsletter has been published weekly, keeping everyone in touch and sharing news of people and happenings. In reviewing arrangements, the Elders considered that it was still a valid instrument and so it will continue to be issued regularly by post and email, with a supplementary Welcome Sheet for relevant information given out at the services to any visitors who may be attending.

To be effective, though, the Newsletter needs information! Names of people needing prayer or events taking place are determined by what information we have. Please let us know of people or events or share reflection or concerns to make it truly a fellowship newsletter.