



## ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

### FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

1<sup>st</sup> November, 2021

#### Sunday Sermon: 1 Peter 3 - 12

Resuming the series on 1 Peter 1, John, returning after a two-week break, took the theme: **Rejoicing in trials** – a very powerful and timely message for so many at this time.

In a context where the believers in Rome were facing horrendous persecution at the hands of the authorities - and their unbelieving fellow citizens, Peter encourages the Christians by reminding them of the truth and relevance of God's word; pointing out the **paradox of Christian practice** in such circumstances.

What made it bearable and acceptable lies in the **truth of salvation**. God had sent His Son to be a Saviour and those who believed in him were assured of that victorious redemption.

Aware of that transforming truth, they could benefit from the **power of praise**, acknowledging what God has done through the gospel. They were to remember **the reality of their salvation**. Pressure becomes an opportunity to experience the overcoming effect of the truth. What we have in God is greater than any hardship we may suffer.

It is important to **understand the purpose of trials** and **the privilege of living in and through these times** so that faith is proved genuine. Further inspiration comes through **the pattern of Christ** who went from suffering to glory; and the blessed assurance of the **strength that he bestows**.

Such blessings can only apply to those who truly have accepted His salvation.

#### Ladies Meeting

The Ladies will meet this Thursday at 2pm when the speaker will be Lorn Miller. All ladies welcome.

#### Meetings

Regular meetings will resume again this week with: Toddler Time on Tuesday morning; Prayer Meeting – at the church and on Zoom – on Tuesday evening at 8 pm; Zoom Prayer Time at 9 00am, Drop-In Café at 10 30am; #One2Seven at 6 30pm – all on Wednesday; Thursday Bible Study at 7 30pm on Zoom (Chapters 22 – 25); and Zoom Prayer Time at 9 00 to 9 30am on Friday.

#### Faith Mission

In addition to the above, the monthly FM Prayer Union will be held on Zoom on Monday at 7 30pm; and two extra meetings:

A **Faith Mission Outreach Rally** on Friday evening, 5<sup>th</sup> November, at 7 30pm with Ministry in Song providing the music and Gordon Thomson speaking, followed by: **Rejuvenate** for teenagers at 8 pm on the Saturday evening.

#### Protecting the Vulnerable

With the slow but insidious advance of the Assisted Dying legislation, abortion concerns and the LGBT agenda, the **Christian Institute** is launching a series of Zoom consultations during which Nigel Kenny and Dr Gordon Macdonald of Care not Killing will give a brief update on all these issues. Held at different dates all over Scotland 'our' session will be on

Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> November at 7 30pm.  
Zoom access is: ID: 891 0596 5727; and  
Password: Protecting.

### **Passion for Life report**

A good number of folk from Milngavie churches gathered at Allander last Saturday morning to hear about the thinking behind Passion for Life – an evangelistic initiative covering the UK, focusing on gospel approaches and culminating in a month of outreach in March 2022. The presentation was followed by a time of open prayer. Further activities will be announced in due course.

### **Remembrance Sunday**

Sunday 14th November is Remembrance Day. The morning worship service will start at 10am and will end at 10.50am; while the Remembrance Day service in the town centre will be at 11am. At the end of both services refreshments will be served in the church.

### **Mission of the Month**

Thank you to all who supported Blythswood during October.

The Mission of the Month for November is: SAT-7, broadcasting by satellite to the Middle East.

### **Advance notice of Church AGM**

The Church's General Meeting is scheduled for Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 7 30pm, DV.

### **Transport**

Margaret Russell is Church Transport Coordinator. If you require help in getting to church please contact her on 0141 942 5624 to discuss.

### **Church Catering**

We are pleased to advise that Linda Wilson has agreed to become responsible for this duty and extend our thanks and best wishes to Linda.

### **More Reflections**

*Continuing Margaret Baird's reflections on Numbers 10 – 17:*

Ch16: Korah, Dathan & Abiram incited a rebellion that included 250 others. Again it seemed to be about position – they resented the position Moses and Aaron had. Korah was a Levite, he seemed to forget that God had given him and his fellow Levites an important position in the worship of God. They wanted more. Moses got it right when he said they were really rebelling against God.

Sin and pride made them forget that God is sovereign and history had failed to impress on them the dangers of opposing God. Korah, Dathan, Abiram and their families were swallowed up by the ground and the 250 men with the incense burners were destroyed by fire. It seems amazing that the people dared to grumble the next day, blaming Moses and Aaron for the deaths. In the end it was only Moses and Aaron's intervention that stopped the Lord destroying them all.

Over the period of Covid, John has often focussed on God's sovereignty. A modern hymn has the line, "He still reigns and He is God". The lesson I felt came from these chapters is that if we forget that God is sovereign our focus moves to ourselves, we can be overwhelmed by all that is going on and fail to trust God as we should.

Or it can cause all sorts of problems for God's people. As Aaron and Miriam focussed on Moses' marriage, we can focus on minor details which become giant problems and can destroy our witness.

As we put God first, recognise His sovereignty and trust Him to lead and guide us, we will be united and better able to reflect His love to others.