



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

15th March, 2021

The Worship of a True Believer John 12

While the previous study focused on the characteristics of the life of Jesus, this one, based on John 12: 1 – 11, considers the implication and application of that believing for the believer.

John's Gospel is written so that '*you might believe*' and through believing might have (eternal) life. So, this incident, coming immediately after the Lazarus miracle and its consequence, has a real significance for us in that it highlights a number of significant features, such as:

Where there is real, genuine, belief, then **Jesus is given a place of honour**. At this meal Jesus, not Lazarus, was the honoured guest. Our worship should be characterised by the place and priority we give to Jesus – and only Jesus.

As a key aspect of that honour **Jesus is given humble service**. '*Martha served*' through ordinary domestic activities, attending to obvious needs, not out of duty but of deep devotion.

When we come to Mary's action in anointing Jesus, we see that the worship is **sacrificial and costly**. Judas was conscious of the cost: Mary wasn't. It is also **personal** in that it was a spontaneous action which may well have attracted ridicule and misunderstanding from others; yet, it was genuine devotion naturally expressed. And, it was **fragrant** filling the house with an aroma that was a testimony to others. It also was very pleasing to Jesus.

So, we may ask: does our belief produce such honour, service and devotion?

Anniversary

Yesterday marked the end of a year in lockdown – a year that none of us ever imagined would happen. It has robbed us of normal church life, as far as church-based activities go, and yet at the same time opened up many new ways of maintaining witness and fellowship.

The initial message to us was "Fear not" but, as time has progressed, that has been accompanied by a challenge to think of what the 'new normal' should be and how we should be living. While much of what has been 'lost' is at the social level, there have been significant gains in the frequency, degree and amount of prayer; practical concern for one another; interest in the persecuted church; Bible study; communication; and much more. As we enter a second year of (slowly easing) lockdown may we continue on that upward spiritual trajectory.

Easter

These weeks leading up to Easter offer an opportunity for that: Holy Week services will be held on YouTube each evening at 7 pm during Holy Week (Monday 29th March to Friday 2nd April); our Zoom Fellowship Evening on Easter Sunday, 4th April at 6.30pm; and our regular Sunday, Prayer, and Bible Study gatherings over these weeks. The link for Holy Week is: <https://www.milngavie.church/holyweek/>

Scripture Union

Despite the severe restrictions curtailing SU's work in schools, the local SU Action Group is endeavouring to make the best use of any available opportunity to

maintain and develop the work. Two initiatives over the Easter period are the use of SU's Colour-in-Easter Activity Packs – a *“cross curricular resource for P6 and P7 that brings the Easter story to life! Alongside the videos is a downloadable resource pack with quizzes and reflection activities formatted for both classroom delivery and home learning”*. There are also One-Day-Camps available for the school holidays. Full details from Craig Morris, SU Regional Worker for Dunbartonshire craig.morris@suscotland.or.uk.

Prayer Meeting

We have benefitted from hearing about different missions over recent Tuesday evenings. Tomorrow, 16th March, Mark Foster will be with us on Zoom at 8 pm to bring us up to date with the work and witness of the Slavic Gospel Association.

Easter Fellowship

A time of online fellowship on the theme of *The Road to Emmaus* is being envisaged for us on Zoom on Easter Sunday evening at 6.30pm with several folk taking part.

“I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the House of the Lord.”

Finally,

For the past 41 years, our home has been in the village of Killearn, nestling at the foot of the Campsie Fells, some 10 miles from Milngavie, where we are surrounded by beautiful countryside.

During the long period of lockdown and restrictions we have walked on 5 roads/paths in the village close to our home for the very first time.

While walking one day I was reminded of the daily walk that we as Christians should have with The Lord and the words of William Cowper's great hymn came to me,

*O for a closer walk with God, - A calm and heavenly frame,
A light to shine upon the road - That leads me to the Lamb.*

His words challenged me to question myself on how close is my walk with God, I pray for us all on the road ahead that we will seek to draw nearer and stay closer to God.

Jim Gourley

Following the Scottish Government decision on Tuesday 9th March to allow places of worship to reopen under continuing restrictions, the church will again be open for worship. Jim Gourley writes: The following is what we, as elders, are planning (providing no changes are made between now and 28th March).

Palm Sunday 28th March. Morning Worship at 10.30am.

Easter Day, 4th April. Morning Worship at 10.30am; and a Fellowship Evening by Zoom and telephone (using the normal details to enter) at 6.30pm.

Then, from **Sunday 11th April** onwards (until further notice) we will hold two different services at the normal times of 10.30am and 6.30pm each Sunday.

We are pleased to be returning to worshipping again in church and hope you will be able to attend. Everyone is welcome to attend all services and the previous precautions will again be in place in line with Government guidelines.

Special Prayer for

Young John Cattanaach and Stefani (John's cousin) in hospital, and others.