



## ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

### FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2023

#### Sunday Sermon: Romans 2: 1 – 16

In sharing the gospel with the church in Rome, Paul spoke of it as God offering His righteousness to replace the ungodliness – and unrighteousness – of mankind and would be effected by the Holy Spirit. Fundamentally, God's wrath is against that wickedness of man, details of which are explicated in the rest of chapter 1. Yesterday's message declared that God will judge that sinful behaviour. **Only God can judge it .. and He certainly will.**

Taking **aspects of God's judgement** it was emphasised that it is, and will be, on the basis of truth, or reality. Mere knowledge of what is right and wrong is insufficient: the critical factor is practice. Therefore it is inexcusable and inescapable; for conscience, as well as the Law, decrees it.

Based on God's love and on reality, it is both righteous and impartial. It is also certain and will be intense in its inevitability and its application.

Yet, it is essentially the gospel – good news - for it declares the compassion of God as the satisfying of that wrath is made through Jesus by His substitutional death and resurrection at Calvary.

Such a gospel – to be effective – needs to be preceded by an acknowledgement that *"vile and full of sin I am"* expressed in genuine repentance and followed by personal faith in the gospel of which Paul is *"not ashamed, for it is the power of God unto salvation"*

Familiar though we are with our sinfulness may we also know what it is to be *"saved from the wrath to come"*.

#### This Week

Our regular activities continue this week with Toddlers at 9 30am and Prayer Meeting at 8pm on Tuesday; Drop-In Café from 10 30 to 12 30 and Hashtag / Youth Challenge at 6 30pm on Wednesday; Ladies Meeting at 1pm and Bible Study at 7 30pm on Thursday. Zoom prayer times from 9 to 9 30 on Wednesday and Friday.

#### Ladies' Meeting

The final meeting for the Ladies will be held this Thursday with a light lunch at 1 pm followed by a presentation by Wendy and Yvonne.

Despite bad weather on several Thursday afternoons, the Ladies' Meeting has been well attended and proves a blessing for many who gather faithfully and is an opportunity to hear again the good news of salvation in Jesus.

It has involved considerable effort by those helping whether in getting the premises ready or in the kitchen, welcoming, playing or leading the services, etc. That willing service is greatly appreciated.

#### People and Prayer

Margaret Stewart has now moved from Westerton to Mugdock House Care Home in Bearsden. George Cowan is now home from hospital and slowly settling in after his fall. Margaret Russell still has some more tests to determine the cause of her vision problems. Good to see her out on Sunday. Joan Gallagher is facing further treatment and Jean Malkin is due major hip surgery. Meanwhile, several folks have

been, or are, suffering from colds and seasonal ailments or enduring bravely through ongoing conditions. They are all remembered in prayer.

Inga is back in the UK this week dealing with her teaching course and making appropriate arrangements. It's a break – of sorts – from the daily grind of translation work in Oaxaca. But wider responsibilities and health concerns still accompany her.

Simon and Hannah Snodgrass are looking for accommodation in the West of Scotland where much of their work is located rather than having to travel in from West Lothian each time. Hopefully that will be before the Holiday Club is launched in July.

#### **Holiday Club**

Letters have been sent out to the families of children who attended last year's Holiday Club informing them of the dates of this year's event and inviting them to send their children to the various activities or to come themselves to our Wednesday Drop-in Cafe or Church services.

The Holiday Club will run, DV, from Monday 10<sup>th</sup> to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July. The first

Planning Meeting will be on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 7 30pm.

#### **Holy Week**

This year the Holy Week services will be hosted by Allander in association with our other neighbouring evangelical churches: St Luke's, St Paul's and Milngavie UF. Reverting to a previous arrangement, there will be one speaker – Dr Sandy Roger - for the week. It is envisaged that this will be a very helpful series of meetings drawing believers from both Milngavie and surrounding churches as well as being an occasion to present the Easter message clearly.

#### **St Paul's Festival**

St Paul's Easter Festival will be open on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April from 10am until 4pm, Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April from 10am until 6pm, and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April from 10am until 4pm. All are welcome.

#### **Easter arrangements**

Following Holy Week and its nightly services at Allander, we will have a service on Easter Sunday followed by a church family lunch. Details of arrangements will be issued shortly.

#### **Finally,**

I always find it interesting when you can go to different parts of the church (geographically and theologically!) and find that the burning message is very similar. It is a reminder to us that God speaks to His family as one regardless of our perceived differences! In recent weeks I have been to a dry and sunny Derbyshire and a cold and wet California (true!) and from a gathering of 90 to a gathering of 4500 yet in both situations God was speaking encouragement to His family in the midst of our discouraging days. We get hit with statistics about Church that can be discouraging; we hear stories of groups and individuals who are drifting from or even denying the Bible and the faith they once professed, and the effect can be negative upon our faith. What I was reminded of powerfully in both conferences this Spring is that the LORD is not discouraged by these things for He is still in complete control and is working out the fulfilment of His word as we await Jesus' return. Not one of His promises have failed, therefore despite all the negativity that can surround us, we look forward with hope.

John Macleod