



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

21st March, 2022

Sunday Sermon: Exodus 4, 6 and 10

There was, understandably, a clear focus on the desperate situation in Ukraine brought by John Speirs, our visiting speaker, who has a wide involvement through the Christian Missions Charity Trust in seeking to provide relief for various troubled areas in the world.

Taking the events of the Exodus experience, we were reminded that our world is in great need because *"sin is the root cause of all misery."*

The Misery of a nation in Egypt arose because of a cruel decree by Pharaoh that imposed hardship on the Jewish people resident there. That treatment was in total contrast to all that they had learned from their ancestors about God's promise to Abraham and the Patriarchs. So, in their affliction they cried out in prayer and supplication to God. In the same way we should cry out in our misery caused by sin.

By doing so they discovered **The Mercy of God**. Being a compassionate God, He 'came down' and heard their prayer and raised up a deliverer in Moses who was given the task of securing their release.

When they trusted in the instruction given to them by Moses, when all human endeavour had failed, to offer a lamb and to put their confidence in God, they encountered **The Miracle of Salvation**.

In the same way we can take note of God's mercy as seen in the Plan of Salvation when Jesus went to Calvary to secure release for us by destroying Satan's hold and experience for ourselves the miracle of salvation – by faith.

This week's activities

'Routine' but vital activities continue this week with Toddlers on Tuesday morning, Prayer meeting (in the Hall and on Zoom) at 8pm on Tuesday, Zoom Payer times on Wednesday and Friday from 9 – 9 30am, Drop-In Café at 10 30 and Hashtag at 6 30 on Wednesday; and both the Ladies at 2pm and the Zoom Bible Study at 7 30pm on Thursday.

Ladies Meeting

The final meeting for the ladies takes place this Thursday at the earlier starting time of 1 pm. The speaker will be Eva Campbell.

Lenten Services

The series of Saturday morning (9 30 – 10am) Lenten services continue at St Paul's this week with Robin Easton reflecting on: *"Our response to Him"* based on *"that whoever believes in him should not perish"* from John 3: 16.

Sunday Services

With John being on holiday, visiting Andrew in the USA, next Sunday morning's service will be taken by our good friend Alex Bedford, followed by communion.

Joint Service

The evening service will be a joint Milngavie Churches one at the UF Church at 6 30pm in connection with the Passion for Life programme leading up to Easter. The speaker on this occasion will be Andy Bannister, Director of the influential Solas

Centre for Public Christianity based in Dundee.

Street Connect Ladies' Tea

A Street Connect Fund-raising Afternoon Tea for Ladies will be held in Bishopbriggs Community Church, Saturday 26th March from 1 – 3pm

Holy Week

The annual Holy Week services will be held in person this year from Monday 11th to Friday 15th at 7 30pm each evening in St Luke's church.

Encouragements and Challenges

There is great reason to be encouraged by, and to thank God for, increased numbers in some of our activities. A good number of folk find the Wednesday Drop-In a welcome place to meet and chat. Then this week there were 17 at the Wednesday night #One2Seven meeting where the listening and response is excellent. These are real answers to prayer.

Toddlers on Tuesday is not only well attended with 26 families represented but also has a waiting list of a further 25 families. That poses a significant challenge to Margaret Baird, Flora MacInnes and their team of willing helpers.

One proposal is to have a second session on Tuesday afternoons. That would need more volunteer help not only to participate but to assist with the catering

and the setting up and clearing of the room and its facilities. Male or female, please let Jim Gourley know if you are interested and willing to help on a rota basis if this new venture gets under way after the summer.

It is envisaged that *May Community Magazine* will carry a feature on the expanding nature of Allander's work in the community which may generate even more interest.

Holiday Club

We are planning to have a Holiday Club this year, running from Monday 27th June to Friday 1st July, working in conjunction with C.E.F (Child Evangelism Fellowship) and led by Simon & Hannah Snodgrass.

The first planning meeting will be held on **Sunday 3rd April at 4pm** in the church and we are requiring people to help as in previous years. Please give this your consideration and come along to see how you can be of help and support. This initiative is a great opportunity to reach out to the Community in Milngavie. Please remember it in your prayers.

Pray for:

It is a privilege to uphold in prayer those with health and other issues. Among these are: George and Margaret Cowan, Margaret Stewart and Jack Wallace, and wife Margaret from Maryhill who is critically ill in hospital.

Finally,

Preparing for my latest holiday has been a little bit different from usual. Normally you spend time thinking of location and then find somewhere to stay and things to do. This has been different as our sole objective is to see Andrew. Yes we will do nice things and hopefully stay in nice places but ultimately the objective has been the renewal of relationship. Is it not this thought that is at the heart of what will be great about heaven? Not simply the amazing things we will see and do but the fact that we will at last see our Saviour and our God, face to face. Now that really is something to look forward to.

John Macleod