



## ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

### FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2023

#### Sunday Sermon: Romans 2: 17 – 29

Writing to the Romans, Paul presents the gospel as the offer of God's righteousness in Christ to replace human wickedness. The background to that offer is the declaration that the wrath of God is against all ungodliness and unrighteousness. God will judge the human condition which is amply illustrated in the wrong actions outlined in chapter 1. There is a coming storm.

As a preliminary, John clarified the fact that for God to judge – on the basis of evidence – is perfectly in order as happened several times in OT history; and reminded us that Christ is the only safe shelter from such judgement.

Turning to chapter 2, it was obvious that two groups of people felt that they were exempt from any such judgement. On the one hand there were those who **considered themselves morally superior** and on the other those who **depended on religious tradition**.

Neither position is valid, for it is not based on knowledge of, but on actual practice. There is the **delusion of hypocrisy** – knowing but not doing, and assuming all is well when in practice it is far from being the case.

The counter to such delusion is **the glory of the gospel** which declares that "*all have sinned*" but also speaks of the fact that Christ died for our sins and thereby ensured that "*the wrath of God was satisfied*". Refuge from that coming storm can be assured by repentance and saving faith in the sacrifice of Christ for us.

#### Holiday Club

The first Planning Meeting for this summer's Holiday Club will take place tonight, Monday 27<sup>th</sup>, at 7 30. Anyone interested in helping or finding out what is being envisaged is welcome to attend.

The Club itself will run from Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July each morning and will be led again by Simon and Hannah Snodgrass.

#### 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 and Bible Study at 7 30pm on Thursday. Zoom prayer times from 9 to 9 30 on Wednesday and Friday.

#### Bible Study

Having reached Corinth on the second journey, we will stop and consider the Corinthian letters at this Thursday's session. Manuel will lead the session this week where contributions of individual reflections from either epistle will be both welcome and appreciated. Meeting ID: 851 6446 7898: Passcode: 080856.

#### Faith Mission

With Holy Week and Easter taking place at the beginning of April there will not be a Faith Mission Rally, Rejuvenate or FM Prayer meeting in that month. We will miss what we have come to regard as the Faith Mission Weekend. It will resume, DV, in May.

## **Women's Christian Viewpoint**

The final meeting of the Women's Christian Viewpoint for this session will be held at Allander on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April with a lunch at 1 pm followed by a Speaker. All ladies are invited to attend.

## **Mission of the Month**

Having supported Platform 67 during March, we turn to The Faith Mission as our Mission of the Month for April.

## **Holy Week**

This year the Milngavie Holy Week services are being hosted at Allander from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> April at 7 30 pm each evening, with Dr Sandy Roger speaking each night on the theme: The Cross through Peter's Eyes. Invitation cards are available.

Refreshments will be available in the Back Hall at the close of each service allowing an opportunity to share fellowship with those from the other churches and with each other.

Communion will be celebrated during the Thursday evening service.

## **People and Prayer**

Good to see Margaret Russell out at church again. She is grateful for all the prayer, visits, phone calls and flowers sent to her while she adapts her lifestyle to the constraints of her condition. Margaret Stewart is settling in well at Mugdock House and George Cowan continues to improve but is still quite frail. Jean Malkin

goes in for hip replacement surgery on Good Friday. Joan Gallagher continues with her treatment while Terry is making steady recovery. Margaret Craig and Gordon appreciate prayer at this time of added anxiety for them. As do others going through difficult times.

Inga is now safely back in Scotland resting a little and seeking medical attention before launching into the intensive Linguistics course she is responsible for. Good to see her and benefit from her participation in our meetings while she is home. Pray for her health and strength.

## **St Paul's Festival**

St Paul's will be holding an Easter Festival from Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April until Friday 7<sup>th</sup>. There will be an exhibition in the Church telling the Easter Story in Fabric and Flora designed by various organizations. There will be a children's craft corner in the hall and a tea room.

The 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 at Allander on Easter Sunday followed by a family lunch. More details to follow,

## **Finally,**

Our Great God (words written by the late Rev Jim Graham)

*"He is not a theology, He is a reality, He is not a fantasy, He is a fact, He is not far from us, He is among us ; He is not destructive, He is creative; He is not critical, He is compassionate; He is not concerned to punish, but He is committed to purity; He does not want to condemn us, but He does want to correct us; He is not dead, He is alive and has come to rescue and redeem all mankind and He becomes vibrantly and vitally alive for all who will trust in him."*

May we all seek to have a deeper relationship with Our God in the days ahead.

Jim Gourley