



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

9th January 2023

2023 Another year of grace

Towards the end of last year we were reminded through John Macleod's ministry that, at the end of the review of the seven churches in Revelation, Jesus is seen as standing outside, seeking an entry, with the words, so powerfully depicted in Holman Hunt's famous painting:

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice, and opens the door, I will come in to them and eat with them.



The Christmas story we recently celebrated showed that it was God's eternal intention that His felt presence should be a significant feature of human history; at first through His people, the Israelites in the OT, then in the Incarnation, ministry, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus in the NT; and subsequently, following Jesus' ascension (when "all His work is ended") the church became a "*habitation of God by the Spirit*" so "*that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known*".

The key to the realisation of that divine purpose is faithful acceptance of that purpose. As John's Gospel states, "*This is the work of God: to believe in Jesus whom God has sent*".

Failure to do so in earlier, OT, times had elicited the solemn warning –and redemptive promise – of 2 Chronicles 7: 14:

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

Yet, "*what the law could not do in that it was weak God did by sending His Own Son*". That is the glorious gospel which brings hope of forgiveness and divine empowerment.

So, as we face another year of grace, let us be found "*willing in the day of His power*" and commit ourselves to see His "*kingdom come and His will being done on earth*" as we seek to "*walk worthy of our calling in Christ Jesus*".

With that in mind, the Elders share their thoughts and prayers for 2023:



Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be on the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls. Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. Hab. 3 vs 17, 18. No matter what this New Year brings forth, no circumstance can rob us of our hope and joy in Christ. Nothing can separate us from God's love

My prayer for 2023 is that we will see people, young and old, coming to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour: to see them obeying the Lord in Baptism and becoming fully involved in the life of the Church as Jesus' Disciples. I long to see family members respond to the Holy Spirit's prompting.



During 2022 we have frequently been praying on Tuesday evenings for our family members who are not yet Christian believers and for those who have turned away from following Jesus. I do pray that we will unite together at our prayer times in 2023 to support each other as we pray for our families.

My prayer for myself and the church for 2023 is based on Philippians 4 where Paul says: Always be full of the joy of the Lord. Rejoice. Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember the Lord is coming soon. Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all that he has done. Then you will experience God's peace which exceeds everything we can understand. It will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.



As we go into another year in which we await the coming of our Lord, I pray that the promise of HIS return will have a purifying and strengthening impact on the life of His church and that we will in the course of this year be even more fruitful in our knowledge of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ and be increasingly effective in our service to Him in the world.

What is our response?

It might be helpful to write out our own prayer and commitment for the year ahead in the space below, and keep it for reference?

My Prayer for 2023

My commitment in 2023

We would do well to remember the words of Jesus in John 15 when He encouraged His disciples – and those who would follow – to “Abide in Me and My words abide in you”.

Thus motivated we can face 2023, and its challenges, knowing that:

**My Father is glorified ~
~ when you bear much fruit”.**

NOTICE BOARD

- Toddlers’ will now recommence on Tuesday 17th January, at 9 30am rather than tomorrow.
- The Prayer meeting will continue tomorrow night, and each Tuesday, at 8pm in the church and also be available on Zoom.
- The Morning Zoom Prayer Times pick up again on Wednesday morning from 9 to 9 30 and on Friday morning at the same time.

- The Drop-In Café continues on Wednesday morning from 10 30 to 12 30
- #One2Seven starts up again at 6 30pm on Wednesday along with the Youth Group at the same time.
- The Ladies' Meeting begins its new year with John Macleod speaking on Thursday, 12th at 2 pm.
- After its extended break, the Zoom Bible Study will resume on Thursday on Zoom (Meeting ID: 851 6446 7898; Passcode 080856; Tel 0131 460 1196) This one-off meeting will take the form of a review of Chapters 1 – 12 before launching on a systematic study of the Missionary Journeys, starting with Chapter 13, on Thursday 26th.
- Nigel Kenny of the Christian Institute will be at the Prayer Meeting on Tuesday 17th, January.
- A performance of If Prison Walls Could Speak by the Artless Theatre Company sponsored by Release International will take place at Allander Evangelical Church on Thursday 19th January 2023 at 7 30pm. Tickets, costing £8, are available for sale online, from one of the Elders, or at the door.
- The next SGA Prayer Meeting will be on Friday, 20th January at 7 30pm in Margaret Russell's home.
- The next packing day for Romania will be held at the church on Friday 27th January at 10 30am.
- £405 was raised for Release International, our Mission of the Month, during December.
- Our Mission of the Month for January is The Christian Institute.

Sadly, Margaret Cowan, our beloved and oldest member, went to be with the Lord on Boxing Day, having suffered so much during these latter years. Our thoughts and prayers are with George and the family at this time. The funeral will be at Allander on Tuesday 10th January at 12 15pm.

We rejoice with Terry Gallagher who had a very positive report from the hospital indicating no trace of leukaemia in the marrow. A real answer to many prayers and a cause for praising God for a 'miracle'.

Others in the Fellowship who have suffered from a range of sicknesses over the holiday season include: Inga, Flora, Nessie, David Wilson, Margaret Baird and Juline, Christine Harvey – and several others.

Looking ahead, we remember all those taking up their responsibilities again and making their contribution in conducting and supporting activities, maintaining the premises, undertaking pastoral work, engaging in ministry – both formal and informal, doing administration, exercising oversight, providing support and encouragement - and so much more.

And we think of those engaged in various ministries both locally through Street Connect, Hope for Glasgow, SU, City Mission, Food Banks, etc; and in other countries, such as Eastern Europe, Myanmar, Nigeria, Yemen, etc.