



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

Monday, 9th October, 2023

Sunday Sermon: Jonah 2: 1 - 10

With John away ministering in a Communion Season on the Isle of Lewis, yesterday's services were taken by Simon Snodgrass.

During a previous service in September he had preached on lessons from chapter 1 of the book about Jonah as a reluctant prophet running away in disobedience from the commission to take God's message to Nineveh.

That journey had ended in disaster with the runaway prophet, cast overboard, and swallowed by a big fish provided by God. At the end of chapter 2 that same fish spewed Jonah out. But, in between, Jonah had prayed out of desperation.

Through that experience Jonah came to realise that **God still hears** prayers, even of those who have failed Him and fallen short of His requirements. Here Jonah prayed best he could in the desperate situation. There is no correct way to pray other than as a genuine approach to God, who will listen and answer.

Unknown to Jonah, but not to God, is the fact that **God rules**. In his providence, God was making provision for the situation to be resolved and the lesson subsequently learned.

Mercifully, what God had provided came into operation; for the big fish that had swallowed Jonah (and taken him on an unexpected 'retreat', as it were) eventually threw him out alive, showing that **God saves**,

Is God taking us through an experience to teach us to trust and obey Him?

Ladies' Meeting

The first meeting of the new session got off to a good start last week, led by a new team:



Faith Mission

The monthly Prayer Union for the Faith Mission will be held tonight at 7 30pm in Jim and Allyson Flett's home at 20 Craighead Drive, G62 7SD on the Mains Estate.

Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal

As well as having Blythswood Care as our Mission of the Month we are supporting their annual Shoe Box Appeal during October. This entails individuals filling Shoe Boxes with appropriate items for distribution in Eastern Europe.

The usual leaflet about the Appeal, offering guidance as to what to give and where it might be sent, is now available at the back of the church along with a sheet for practical guidance – and an elastic band! Completed boxes should be returned to the church no later than Sunday 29th October.

Baptismal Service

The morning service next Sunday will include Believers' Baptism when two people will be baptised as a public testimony of their Christian faith. For anyone interested, practical arrangements can be made to take account of individual needs where immersion is not possible but the public aspect of the testimony is incumbent on all believers.

Prayer

While all need prayer, our emphasis is often – and understandably – on those undergoing health issues and challenging circumstances. From time to time we publish names of those in such need. Some do not want to be mentioned while, inevitably, others may be inadvertently overlooked. But among the names we are aware of are the following:

Janice Allan, Mary Atwell, Ian Baird, Ian Carmichael, Mary Clarke, George Cowan, Margaret Craig, Jean Donnelly, Terry & Joan Gallagher, Jack & Christine Harvey, Joyce Kyle, Roddy MacKenzie, Jean Malkin, Isla Morrison, Margaret Russell, Ibbie Simpson, Margaret Stewart, Agnes Wilson, David & Morag Wilson,

Fellowship and Unity

We rejoice in sharing fellowship with other evangelical believers both in this area and wider afield. Our friends at Maryhill Evangelical Church attend many of our meetings and help out at various activities.

They say: *“We value your prayers and support. We are a ‘work in progress’ with folks attending our various activities*

including, Tuesday Bible Studies in Hebrews with good participation, Toddlers on Thursday mornings and Children’s Club in the evenings. Four children attend our Sunday School taken in turn by the ladies. On Saturday lunchtime a few members of our church fellowship go out for tract distribution in our community, an opportunity for witnessing and sharing the word of God.

As an extra activity they are having a series on Tuesday nights beginning on the 17th October by Dr Charles Sommerville on the Book of Revelation. The study is also available on Zoom.

SGA Prayer

The next SGA Prayer Meeting will be on Friday, 20th October at Manuel and Ava’s home.

Supper Evening

The Get Connected Group at the church plan to hold a ‘Potluck Supper’ will be held for anyone in the church on Friday evening 27th October at 7 30pm in Gayle Cattanach’s home at 10 Campbell Avenue, Milngavie, G62 6DL. Please let Janice Allan have your names if you wish to attend.

Finally

Preparing four sermons for preaching at a ‘Communion season’ has been quite a challenge for me as I normally struggle to get two sermons ready for Sunday! However, it has been good reflecting on the traditional themes of the ‘Communion’. Beginning on Thursday with the theme of our ‘humiliation’ (our lost condition and need of salvation) the season moves to Examination, then Preparation before the Sunday Celebration (or Commemoration) of the Lord’s Supper. Usually, the Sunday evening message is very evangelistic and in a bygone day used to draw quite a crowd. The season traditionally ended on Monday evening with a Thanksgiving service, but this service has largely fallen away as Communion seasons were streamlined due to the changes in modern life. Whilst this approach to communion may seem alien to many, it is a powerful reminder how much care and thought should go into our participation in the Breaking of Bread lest we eat and drink judgment on ourselves.

John Macleod

