



## ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

### FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2023

#### Sunday Sermon: Luke 8: 41 - 56

Practical difficulties mean that it has not been possible to provide a summary of yesterday's sermon by John Macleod. In its place there is a summary of last Sunday evening's sermon by our good friend, Ramsay Shields of St Luke's church, who was our visiting speaker.

Basing his comments on two incidents in Luke 8 he highlighted the actions of:

- **A grieving father.** Jairus, ruler of the synagogue deliberately sought Jesus to come to his house to attend to his 12 year old daughter who was dying of fever. Jesus responded willingly and proceeded to heal the girl much to the father's delight and the crowd's amazement. While they were on their way, however,
- **A despondent woman** in the crowd reached through the crowd and touched the hem of his cloak. Jesus stopped, spoke to her, saw her faith and healed her. Both of these looked to
- **A gracious Saviour's** who responded to their faith with healing power and transformed their lives.

We, too, whatever our situation, can come to Jesus for help. Our studies in Proverbs have highlighted the truth of: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your paths, for the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.*

#### Open Door Letter

Chris Greenhaugh writes: The persecuted church family certainly love receiving a letter of encouragement from you. Here is the link to the page on our website that shows our current letter-writing campaigns:

<https://www.opendoorsuk.org/act/letter/>

#### Mission of the Month

£450 was raised for Release International through Mission of the Month giving for November.

Our Mission of the Month for December is SAT-7 broadcasting right across Middle Eastern countries and able to cross barriers into people's homes and lives.

#### Christmas Coffee Morning

We have a special Christmas Coffee Morning on Wednesday morning this week, 6<sup>th</sup> December, from 10 30 to 12 30 with free coffee / tea, cakes, and a gift stall! Why not join us? It is a good occasion to get together and enjoy fellowship with us, also with those from other churches and the community.

#### Ladies Meeting

The Ladies will meet for their third monthly meeting and Christmas gathering this Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December.

Following the tradition of past years, this will be preceded by a lunch. So, please meet at 1 pm for that event which will then be followed by the meeting itself at 2 pm, and finish at 3 15pm. Please let Janice know if you plan to be there for the lunch so that proper preparation can be made.

### Church Business Meeting

The annual church business meeting will be held this Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December, when reports will be presented covering various aspects of the church's activity including, Ministries, Finance, Pastoral and Property. It is also an opportunity to reflect on our stewardship and involvement as a Christian witness here in Milngavie and beyond.

Papers setting out the agenda and the financial statement for 2022 - 2023 are available at the back of the church.

It is open to members and others who are faithful attenders and participants. Maybe this is the time to consider making that definite commitment of recognised and dedicated membership?

### Service Arrangements

Over the Christmas and New Year period service arrangements will be changed with Christmas services on the mornings of December 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>; Carol Services on those two evenings; and a Hogmanay

Watchnight Service at 11 15 on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

### Congratulations

Our best wishes to Jack and Bailey Adair on their marriage and life together. Jack was baptised in Allander and actively involved in our young people's work. Now he is serving in Grace Community Church in Broxburn as a deacon. Both still attend Allander during their visits home to Clydebank.



Congratulations, too, to Simon and Hannah on the birth of Molly. Now, with Edith, they are a family of 4. While it is a joyful time for the family, let's remember them in our prayers.

### Joint FM and CEF Prayer Union

The joint FM and CEF Prayer meeting will meet next week, Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> December, (not tonight ) at James and Allyson Flett's home at 20 Craighead Drive, G62 7DS at 7 30 pm.

### Finally

Yesterday was the first Sunday in Advent. Advent properly understood has three dimensions.

1. The Past - Christ's historic coming to Israel at Bethlehem.
2. The Present - Christ's constant coming to The Church and to you and me, in the here and now.
3. The Future - Christ's final coming to the world at the end of the age.

When Jesus came into the world three things that happened to him are still happening to him in the world today.

1. Hostility - as seen in Herod who said, Let Him be destroyed! Let Him die while He is still in the cradle.
2. Secular Preoccupation - as seen in the Bethlehem innkeeper who had no room for Jesus.
3. Commitment - as seen in Simeon the old Saint of God who with his inner vision was waiting to see Jesus and on seeing him at the Temple said "Mine eyes have seen thy salvation"

So in Advent and in the days we have to come may we be like Simeon and live our lives in total commitment to the one who was born to die for us and who will come back again to this world to call us to be with him in heaven.

May we all know and experience His love and presence daily in our lives.



Jim Gourley