



## ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

### FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2021

#### Sunday Sermon: The Living Christ

The purpose of this powerful series has been to show how, within the context of our building our Christian lives on the only worthwhile foundation, we should reflect – and be governed by - the qualities and attributes that Jesus portrayed during his ministry on earth.

Concluding the series, and based on the description given in Acts 1: 1 – 11, John focused on the resurrection and ascension of Jesus – two important aspects of his ministry because they show how Christianity is not simply replicating the teaching of long-gone teachers but the outworking of the message of a Redeemer who is alive and active in our experience as believers today. The resurrection and ascension give us real grounds for hope.

The resurrection of Jesus is proof of what Jesus was and did when he came to earth. It is the affirmation that Jesus is truly the Son of God, now endowed with authority.

It is also the guarantee regarding the effectiveness of what Jesus came to do. As our substitute he offered himself as a sacrifice for our sins – and rose again: mission accomplished.

And, it provides assurance about our future and daily living. While Satan destroys Jesus gives and ensures life for those who truly believe. Because he lives there is hope.

That is underlined by the fact that, now ascended, he ever lives to make intercession for us; he helps us and has given the Holy Spirit to transform us and will, one day, come back for us.

#### Sunday Service

We are looking forward to John Speirs speaking at our Zoom worship service on Sunday morning, 28<sup>th</sup> February which John Macleod will be leading.

#### Release International

We are pleased that James Fraser from Release International – our Mission of the Month for February - will be speaking at our Zoom Prayer Meeting on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 8pm. We look forward to hearing again from James about work and developments within Release International and then giving time for us to pray for the organisation.

#### Reflections

Last Sunday, John made reference to Jim Gourley's introduction at the Friday Prayer Time drawing attention to the Cross as being an appropriate prelude to the powerful Sunday sermon on the death of Jesus and its meaning for us. Margaret Stewart was listening to that initial presentation and sends us this acrostic:

C	Crucifixion
R	Redemption
O	Obligation
S	Salvation
S	Sanctification

Then, in conversation, George Cowan made the observation that "The more you exercise your faith the more God rewards you".

Thoughts like these are very helpful: please phone or email to share them with us.

## **Church Building.**

While we are currently unable to use the building due to restrictions in place, work has been undertaken to ensure that it remains in good condition.

The builders have repaired the part of the roof which was causing water to enter the building and also painted the stair well leading to the rooms upstairs.

We also appreciate the painting work which has been done by ourselves to areas outwith the main hall.

This work, together with what has been done in the Crush Hall prior to Christmas, has ensured that the building is looking good and ready for the day when we can return for worship and other activities.

## **Bible Study**

After a one-off change last week, the Bible Study on Thursday at 7 30 pm is back to normal arrangements. In view of last week's truncated session we will use this one to reflect on the whole of Genesis before moving on to Exodus in March. The 'homework' is to share any reflections on the Joseph section (37 – 50) or on any part of the whole book of Genesis.

## **Pray for:**

While still several of our number are struggling with continuing ill-health or other issues, some have had unexpected

falls because of the ice and snow last week. Allyson Flett twisted her leg quite badly and Jean Wilson broke her ankle. Both are suffering from sleep deprivation! Being able to pray for each other – whatever the circumstance - is such a precious aspect of fellowship.

## **Faith Mission Prayer Meeting**

The next Zoom Faith Mission Prayer Meeting will be on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> March at 7.30 pm. The meeting details are as set out below.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72074705857?pwd=WHg3L00wU2VxN2w3WkpIS1JXYktlUT09> Meeting ID: 720 7470 5857;  
Passcode: 4e8kZC

## **Fellowship Evening**

Following on from the Zoom Fellowship Evening last December, another is being planned for Easter Sunday Evening, 4<sup>th</sup> April, on theme of The Road to Emmaus with several, including Jack Adair, Danny Sutherland and John taking part.

## **OM Ships**

OM Ships celebrate 50 years of service in taking the gospel around the world. Though curtailed because of the pandemic, it is still active and currently hosts the largest gathering of Christians allowed to meet together in person.

## **Finally,**

The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." These words from the Creation narrative have come to me regularly as I recognise the struggles many face with lockdown. God made us for community and whilst many of us can be happy in our own company for a time, we realise that it is necessary for the nurture of our "made in the likeness of GOD" humanity to engage with others. This is especially true for the community of the redeemed, whose faith is nurtured in the "one another" elements of church life. As there appears to be little sign of lockdown ending soon, please be mindful of one another and be open to the Lord's promptings to reach out and encourage each other.

John Macleod