



ALLANDER EVANGELICAL CHURCH

FELLOWSHIP NEWSLETTER

15th February, 2021

Sunday Sermon: The Death of Christ

There is no doubt that the outstanding feature of the ministry of Jesus is his death and resurrection. It is pivotal to his story. It is at the heart of New Testament teaching. That "*Christ died for our sins*" is central to the gospel. When Jesus heard Peter's reply that "*You are the Christ*" he followed that with teaching his disciples that he "*must suffer . . . be killed and be raised*". (Matthew 16: 21)

There are many reasons why Jesus' death is so important.

It was not necessary for Jesus to die but he gave himself willingly to the experience of the Cross.

It was an act of obedience on his part, one he faced despite the agony entailed in its being undertaken.

By it he achieved so much that was essential for our salvation and to fulfil the redemptive purpose of God.

He exchanged his life for ours. He who knew no sin was made sin for us. "*He took our sins and our sorrows and made them his very own*".

He accomplished God's work of reconciliation. He dealt with the barrier between us and God – our sin – and brought us near to God.

He atoned for our sins. As substitute he took our burden on himself and paid the price of our redemption.

Such a sacrifice should shape our life as we adopt the mind of Christ, understand God's grace as opposed to our sinful nature and are assured of his enabling.

Elders' Meeting

The Elders meet today to consider the spiritual direction and practical outworking of our witness here through Allander in these difficult times, as well as pastoral concerns. They would appreciate our prayers.

#One2Seven mailing today

The invitations for the March series go out today. Please pray that they will be well received and generate good response.

Sunday Meetings

Holding the Sunday morning meeting on Zoom seems to be greatly appreciated. Not only are we able to 'join in' the singing in our own homes but we benefit from the ministry and also the opportunity to chat to a random group in the Breakout Rooms, thus keeping in touch. It looks as if initial technical glitches have been overcome.

On Sunday 28th February we are looking forward to John Speirs speaking at our Zoom worship service 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 23rd February.

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.

Maryhill Evangelical Church

It was good to be able to join our good friends at Maryhill at their Zoom virtual 125th Anniversary on Saturday night.

Pray for:

The many folk who are still facing challenges through illness, circumstances, weariness from the effects of the lockdown and family concerns. And, for David Jack whose brother, Bob, passed away last week. It is good to be part of a fellowship that exercises care and concern for each other and for those working with agencies and missions across our world.

Thanks

We are indebted again to Manuel for his expertise and hard work in ensuring that the website is updated. Keep looking at it and let us know if there are any items that need modifying. We want the website to be as relevant and useful as possible.

Resources

As the pandemic grip continues, it is encouraging to see churches and agencies rise to the challenge.

Scripture Union, whose normal activities are seriously curtailed, have produced Jungle Adventure – a Bible-based Holiday Club for the outdoors.

The **Scottish Bible Society** is producing two resources. One is Wonder Walks – an

all-age outdoor Lent and Easter resource.

Another is Easter Reader – a book containing 40 short readings for use in Lent. Can be obtained from the SBS at: www.scottishbiblesociety.org

SAT – 7

The Zoom reports from SAT-7 on Wednesday last week contained very encouraging stories of people being helped through their broadcasting in the Middle East. One exciting new development is SAT-7 Plus which is its own “i-player” platform making Christian programmes available on demand – another example, like Jill McKinnon’s social media approach, of using technology to further gospel witness.

Please Note - Bible Study Change

Due to technical reasons, this Thursday’s Bible Study at 7 30 pm will be a shortened version with a different access code.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76454452594?pwd=VXZ3aHNqTmhpbgG1aMHkySGtOM0tYUT09>

Meeting ID: 764 5445 2594; Passcode: 9RSsi7

This arrangement is for this meeting only. All other meetings are as normal.

Finally,

We read in Genesis Chapter 13 v 4 that Abraham called on the name of the Lord but shortly thereafter a conflict arose between Abraham and Lot’s herdsmen. There will always be conflict between the spiritual and natural man. Abraham, to prevent conflict between himself and Lot, decided it was better to separate, and gave Lot the choice as to where he wanted to go. The natural man walks by sight, and not by faith. Lot’s choice was the well-watered plains of Jordan, which we later learn vexed Lot greatly (2 Peter: 2:7).

Although Abraham appeared to have drawn the “short straw” through Lot’s choice, Abraham walked by faith and not by sight, and God blessed him greatly.

In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths. (Proverbs: 3v6)

Sandy Allan