

Focus on Fetteresso 5th April

The church again was full to hear our minister Fyfe Blair entertain and celebrate the start of "Holy Week" and Palm Sunday. The children went through their ideas of what events they celebrated such as holidays, birthdays etc and it was explained that this was true in the days of Jesus where at the feast of the Passover, psalms were sung, everyone shouted Hosanna and danced into the temple then put branches on the alter. Palm Sunday reminds us to look forward to Easter and to the resurrection of our Lord – you did fulfill your promises.

The main theme for the morning service was Psalm 118 and is the last in this series of psalms over recent weeks. Sandwiched between the shortest psalm and the longest, this is the last song of the Egyptian Hallel. It consists of six Psalms (113-118), which are said as a unit, on joyous occasions. On those occasions, Hallel is usually chanted aloud as part of the Morning Prayer service. The psalm speaks to all believers in every age and gives us four practical instructions: give thanks to the Lord at all times; trust in the Lord in every crisis; glorify the Lord after every victory and see the Lord in every experience.

This is a psalm of celebration and would be sung in every household during the Passover. It is about Jesus entering Jerusalem and is the heritage of our faith as we look at Holy week as it roles out to an uprising that is woven into the very fabric of our Christian society. The psalm becomes a chant of the people as we proclaim what the Lord has done for us. His steadfast promise that this is not the end for those that are obedient in their faithfulness and commitment. Sticking with the issues and difficulties through life. Martin Luther suggested that Psalm 118 was his own – it summarized the good news of the gospel. This psalm stands in the face of all those in exile – a holy week where Jesus goes to the cross and the grave – but that he would not be forsaken and God's steadfast love would endure – we will be liberated and set free. This psalm should be used as a call for every Sunday – this is the day of the Lord – we will be glad and rejoice in it. It's about trust as we get hung-up over the wrong things during life. We too should make this week a public celebration of that steadfast love, a faithful deliverer – let us bow our heads – he is our salvation.

Seven@Fetteresso focused on Hebrews 12 with the theme of perseverance and endurance where we must step out in the confidence of our faith and follow the journey without drifting. All arrows point to the centre and Jesus. The depth of our relationship will depend on our perseverance and our ability to run a marathon. This is an endurance course to find the true love of Jesus. Those that are weary, disillusioned or are suffering will find encouragement to discover the living God. Jesus was the pioneer and the perfecter of the faith. The journey through Hebrews is a marathon, not a sprint, a long road from early days to maturity. Through this Easter week, take an opportunity to share your story of running the race – the discipline, teaching and also the suffering on the way so that we all may share in the resurrection. Seven@Fetteresso is encouraging the younger generation to undertake this marathon journey with all the intrinsic difficulties, discouragements enroute that requires collective perseverance. There are many issues that will tempt us away from the race – it's hard and many have tried alternatives such as Jonah and Elijah. We must keep focused and our eyes on Jesus and the cross – he endured it, thus scorning its shame. The church is our training ground, our gymnasium, and the school to learn the discipline needed on the journey. Through perseverance, we're being made holy. Keep our eyes focused through holy week and may we be made whole by the one who has gone before us.

Here is an advanced warning of a weekend of fun and entertainment at the Fetteresso Church weekend from Fri 24th April to Sunday 26th April. If you wish to come along to any of the events and participate please call our church office on 767689 for further details.