

Nuneaton Christian Fellowship

Epiphany Sunday

6th January 2019 - 6.00pm

All: We praise You God for what we have learnt this evening. We choose to serve You and please You this coming year. We open our lives to let You work in us and so that we might be an encouragement and blessing to those we meet. Thank You God. Amen.

Refreshments are now being served in the Small Hall.
You're welcome to stay and enjoy them with us.

We are so glad you joined us today
and look forward to seeing you again.
Our next Traditional Evening Service is on 20th January.

Please let us know
if we can pray for you or help you.

More details about what is happening here can be found in our twice
monthly Newsletter 'Onward' and on our website:

nuneatonchristianfellowship.org.uk

NCF Ministers:

John Stephenson, Rev. Paul Wood and Rev. Nik Howarth

We warmly welcome you
to our Traditional Evening Service
which is being led by
Rev. Paul Wood
this evening.

Our Traditional Evening Services occur
on the first and third Sunday of each month
and last for around 50 minutes.

Welcome and Notices

Opening Prayers

Come and worship the Lord with me.

All: It is right to give Him thanks and praise!

Let us remember the good things God has done.

All: Thank You Jesus, for coming to earth and the joy of Christmas we have recently experienced.

We praise You God for loving us unconditionally.

All: Yes, Your love continues to change us. Amen.

Hymn

As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious God, may we
Evermore be led by Thee!

As with joyful steps they sped,
Saviour, to Thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before
Thee whom heaven and earth adore,
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek Thy mercy-seat!

Sermon

Hymn

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessèd, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great Name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life Thou givest — to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish—but nought changeth Thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All laud we would render: O help us to see
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth Thee.

[Written in 1867]

Closing Prayers

All: We will arise and shine. Jesus, our light, has come into the world and His glory has risen upon us.

(Isaiah 60:1)

Our Second Reading

Genesis 1:20-31 (New International Version):

²⁰ And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.” ²¹ So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.” ²³ And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

²⁹ Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. ³⁰ And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

As they offered gifts most rare
At Thy cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King!

Holy Jesus, every day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And when earthly things are past.
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

In the heavenly country bright
Need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,
Thou its sun which goes not down.
There forever may we sing
Hallelujahs to our King!

[Written in 1859]

Prayer

All: Lord, as the Magi were led to You by the star, we thank You for those who help us to know more about You. Thank You Lord for our homes, our friends and our family. We praise You for being with us in good times and bad. Thank You for changing our lives and for being our Saviour. Amen.

Offertory Hymn

Lord, for the years Your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive Your people's praise.

Lord, for our land in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for our world when we disown and doubt You,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without You:
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us -
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us, for the future take us:
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

[Written in 1969]

Let us say together:

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,
Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate
from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered
death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accord-
ance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at
the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and
the Son He is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through
the Prophets.

We believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic Church. We
acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world
to come. Amen.

Hymn

I will sing the wondrous story
Of the Christ who died for me;
How He left the realms of glory
For the cross on Calvary.

I was lost, but Jesus found me,
Found the sheep that went astray,
Threw His loving arms around me,
Drew me back into His way.

I was bruised but Jesus healed me,
Faint was I from many a fall;
Sight was gone, and fears possessed me;
But he freed me from them all:
Days of darkness still come o'er me,
Sorrow's paths I often tread,
But the Saviour still is with me;
By His hand I'm safely led.

He will keep me till the river
Rolls its waters at my feet,
Then He'll bear me safely over,
All my joys in Him complete.
Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story
Of the Christ who died for me.
Sing it with his saints in glory,
Gathered by the crystal sea.

[Written in 1886]

Our First Reading

Genesis 1:1-19 (New International Version):

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

⁶ And God said, "Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water." ⁷ So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. ⁸ God called the vault "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

⁹ And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good.

¹¹ Then God said, "Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds." And it was so. ¹² The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

¹⁴ And God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶ God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

Hymn

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven;
To His feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who like thee His praise should sing
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favour
To our fathers in distress.
Praise Him still the same for ever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Glorious in His faithfulness.

Father-like He tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame He knows.
In His hands He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Widely as His mercy flows.

Frail as summer's flower we flourish,
Blows the wind and it is gone;
But while mortals rise and perish
God endures unchanging on,
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise the High Eternal One!

Angels, in the height adore Him
Ye behold Him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before Him,
Dwellers all in time and space
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise Him! Praise Him!
Praise with us the God of grace!

[Written in 1834]

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy Name
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy Will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

In this time of silence let us remember others who might be struggling with illness, relationships, their job or their finances. May Jesus, the Prince of Peace, bring order to those who are confused and distressed.

Communion