

# Nuneaton Christian Fellowship

The LORD bless you and keep you:  
The LORD make his face to shine upon you,  
and be gracious to you:  
The LORD lift up his countenance upon you,  
and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26 [*Revised Standard Version*]

**All: We praise You for the stories and truths we have heard tonight. Thank You for being our Navigator, our Shepherd and our Comforter. As we leave this evening, we choose to put You first in our lives. We acclaim You as our Saviour and Lord! Amen.**

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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 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

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](http://nuneatonchristianfellowship.org.uk)

NCF Ministers:  
John Stephenson, Rev. Paul Wood and Rev. Nik Howarth

20<sup>th</sup> January 2019 - 6.00pm

We warmly welcome you  
to our Traditional Evening Service  
which is being led by  
**John Stephenson**  
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

This is the day that the LORD has made.

**All: We will rejoice and be glad in it!**

You are my God and I will praise You.

**All: You are my God and I will exalt You.**

Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good.

**All: His love endures forever. Amen.**

(Psalm 118:34, 28, 29)

### Hymn

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;  
Praise Him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,  
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!  
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been  
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;  
Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,  
Who with His love doth befriend thee.

### Hymn

The day Thou gavest, Lord, is ended,  
The darkness falls at Thy behest;  
To Thee our morning hymns ascended,  
Thy praise shall sanctify our rest.

We thank Thee that Thy church, unsleeping,  
While earth rolls onward into light,  
Through all the world her watch is keeping,  
And rests not now by day or night.

As o'er each continent and island  
The dawn leads on another day,  
The voice of prayer is never silent,  
Nor dies the strain of praise away.

The sun that bids us rest is waking  
Our brethren 'neath the western sky,  
And hour by hour fresh lips are making  
Thy wondrous doings heard on high.

So be it, Lord; Thy throne shall never,  
Like earth's proud empires, pass away:  
Thy kingdom stands, and grows forever,  
Till all Thy creatures own Thy sway.

[Written in 1870]

### Closing Prayers

**All: Jesus, You have made us a light to this world. Please shine Your love and compassion through us so that You may be glorified in our lives this coming week.**

(Matthew 5:14-16)

## Our Second Reading

Genesis 9:8-17 (New International Version):

<sup>8</sup> Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: <sup>9</sup> “I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you <sup>10</sup> and with every living creature that was with you—the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you—every living creature on earth. <sup>11</sup> I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.”

<sup>12</sup> And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: <sup>13</sup> I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup> Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, <sup>15</sup> I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life.

<sup>16</sup> Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.”

<sup>17</sup> So God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth.”

## Sermon

Praise to the Lord, who, when tempests their warfare are waging,  
Who, when the elements madly around thee are raging,  
Biddeth them cease, turneth their fury to peace,  
Whirlwinds and waters assuaging.

Praise to the Lord, who, when darkness of sin is abounding,  
Who, when the godless do triumph, all virtue confounding,  
Sheddeth His light, chaseth the horrors of night,  
Saints with His mercy surrounding.

Praise to the Lord, oh, let all that is in me adore Him!  
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him;  
Let the Amen sound from His people again,  
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

[Written in 1680, translated into English in 1863]

## Prayer

**All: Lord, we come to You for mercy and forgiveness. We know that any shame that held us and the untruths and exaggerations about ourselves that we have believed are broken because of what You did at the cross. We praise You for the new mercy You give us to face our fresh challenges each day. Amen.**

## Offertory Hymn

All people that on earth do dwell,  
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice:  
Him serve with mirth, His praise forth tell,  
Come ye before him and rejoice.

Know that the Lord is God indeed;  
Without our aid he did us make:  
We are his folk, He doth us feed,  
And for His sheep he doth us take.

O enter then His gates with praise,  
Approach with joy his courts unto;  
Praise, laud, and bless His Name always,  
For it is seemly so to do.

For why? the Lord our God is good,  
His mercy is for ever sure;  
His truth at all times firmly stood,  
And shall from age to age endure.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Him all creatures here below,  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

[Written in 1561]

## Prayer

Let us say together:

I arise today  
Through the strength of heaven;  
Light of the sun, splendour of fire,  
Speed of lightning, swiftness of the wind,  
Depth of the sea, stability of the earth,  
Firmness of the rock.

I arise today  
Through God's strength to pilot me;  
God's might to uphold me, God's wisdom to guide me,  
God's eye to look before me, God's ear to hear me,  
God's word to speak for me, God's hand to guard me,  
God's way to lie before me, God's shield to protect me,  
God's hosts to save me afar and anear,  
Alone or in a multitude.

Christ shield me today against wounding,  
Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,  
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,  
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,  
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,  
Christ in the eye that sees me,  
Christ in the ear that hears me.

I arise today  
Through the mighty strength  
Of the Lord of creation.

[Attributed to St Patrick]

## Hymn

The King of love my Shepherd is,  
Whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am His,  
And He is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow  
My ransomed soul He leadeth,  
And, where the verdant pastures grow,  
With food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,  
But yet in love He sought me,  
And on His shoulder gently laid,  
And home, rejoicing, brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
With Thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
Thy cross before to guide me.

Thou spread'st a table in my sight;  
Thy unction grace bestoweth;  
And O what transport of delight  
From Thy pure chalice floweth!

And so through all the length of days  
Thy goodness faileth never:  
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise  
Within Thy house for ever.

[Written in 1868]

## Our First Reading

Genesis 6:9-22 (New International Version):

<sup>9</sup> This is the account of Noah and his family.

Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God. <sup>10</sup> Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth.

<sup>11</sup> Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. <sup>12</sup> God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. <sup>13</sup> So God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. <sup>14</sup> So make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out.

<sup>15</sup> This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be three hundred cubits long, fifty cubits wide and thirty cubits high. <sup>16</sup> Make a roof for it, leaving below the roof an opening one cubit high all around. Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks. <sup>17</sup> I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. <sup>18</sup> But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. <sup>19</sup> You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. <sup>20</sup> Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive. <sup>21</sup> You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them."

<sup>22</sup> Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

## Hymn

Lord, the light of your love is shining,  
In the midst of the darkness, shining;  
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us;  
Set us free by the truth you now bring us,  
Shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine,  
Fill this land with the Father's glory;  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,  
Set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow,  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
Send forth your word,  
Lord, and let there be light!*

Lord, I come to your awesome presence,  
From the shadows into your radiance;  
By the blood I may enter your brightness,  
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.  
Shine on me, shine on me.

As we gaze on your kingly brightness  
So our faces display your likeness.  
Ever changing from glory to glory,  
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story.  
Shine on me, shine on me.

[Written in 1987]

In this time of silent prayer let us remember the many schools in this Borough. Pray that the teachers and governors will use the resources they have to give their pupils the best education that is possible. Consider the office staff and technicians who often work in the background too.

The Government still faces the continuing challenges of Brexit. Ask God how Theresa May and her Ministers may move our country forward and ensure political stability.

HM the Queen and her family have had an important role in our nation for many generations. Pray for their continued good health, their privacy and that their duty and love for God will be of utmost importance to them.

## 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.**

## Paul's Story