

Nuneaton Christian Fellowship

‘May the LORD bless you
and keep you.
May the LORD smile down on you
and show you his kindness.
May the LORD answer your prayers
and give you peace.’

Numbers 6:24-26 [Easy to Read Version]

All: Thank You loving God for Your kindness, mercy and compassion towards us. We deserved the worst because of our actions, thoughts and words, but You have given us the best! You have made an enduring relationship with You possible. You have given us eternal life. You have done amazing things in our lives. We adore You Lord. 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 2nd June.

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

19th May 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

Come, all you who are thirsty!

All: We come to God who is wise and loving.

Come, all you who are sinful and weak!

All: We come to God who is holy yet compassionate.

Come, all you who are struggling in any way!

All: We come to God who is kind and merciful.

(Isaiah 55)

Hymn

And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Saviour's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain—
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be,
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

'Tis myst'ry all: the Immortal dies:
Who can explore His strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries
To sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more.

Sermon

Hymn

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Be all else but naught to me, save that Thou art;
Be Thou my best thought in the day and the night,
Both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
Be Thou ever with me, and I with Thee, Lord;
Be Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son;
Be Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my Breastplate, my Sword for the fight;
Be Thou my whole Armour, be Thou my true Might;
Be Thou my soul's Shelter, be Thou my strong Tow'r,
O raise Thou me heav'nward, great Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;
Be Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Be Thou and Thou only the first in my heart,
O high King of heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, Thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys, after vict'ry is won;
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be Thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

[Translated in 1912]

Closing Prayers

All: Lord Jesus, You are my all in all. I open my heart to any surprises you want to do in my life. Guide my steps. Lead me in Your everlasting ways. Please continue to use me to bless and encourage others, as You continue to touch my life. Amen.

Our Second Reading

Habakkuk 1:1-7 (New International Version)

The prophecy that Habakkuk the prophet received.

Habakkuk's complaint

² How long, LORD, must I call for help,
but you do not listen?

Or cry out to you, 'Violence!'
but you do not save?

³ Why do you make me look at injustice?
Why do you tolerate wrongdoing?
Destruction and violence are before me;
there is strife, and conflict abounds.

⁴ Therefore the law is paralysed,
and justice never prevails.
The wicked hem in the righteous,
so that justice is perverted.

The LORD's answer

⁵ 'Look at the nations and watch –
and be utterly amazed.

For I am going to do something in your days
that you would not believe,
even if you were told.

⁶ I am raising up the Babylonians,
that ruthless and impetuous people,
who sweep across the whole earth
to seize dwellings not their own.

⁷ They are a feared and dreaded people;
they are a law to themselves
and promote their own honour.

He left His Father's throne above—
So free, so infinite His grace—
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race:
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
For, O my God, it found out me!

Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray—
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine;
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach the eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.

[Written in 1738]

Prayer

All: We praise You Lord Jesus for setting us free from our past. Thank You that it is through Your sacrifice on the cross that we are made new creations. You have changed us and adopted us. Your gifts of love to us are innumerable. We extol You! Amen.

Offertory Hymn

Now thank we all our God,
with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
in Whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

Oh, may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace,
and guide us when perplexed;
And guard us through all ills
in this world, till the next!

All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
The Son, and Him Who reigns
with Them in highest Heaven—
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and Heav'n adore;
For thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

[Written in 1636, translated in 1856]

Prayer

**Great is the LORD, and most worthy of praise,
in the city of our God, his holy mountain.
Beautiful in its loftiness,
the joy of the whole earth.**

**Within your temple, O God,
we meditate on your unfailing love.
Like your name, O God,
your praise reaches to the ends of the earth;
your right hand is filled with righteousness.
Mount Zion rejoices,
the villages of Judah are glad
because of your judgments.**

**The Mighty One, God, the LORD,
speaks and summons the earth
from the rising of the sun to where it sets.
From Zion, perfect in beauty,
God shines forth.
Our God comes
and will not be silent;
a fire devours before him,
and around him a tempest rages.
He summons the heavens above,
and the earth, that he may judge his people:
'Gather to me this consecrated people,
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.'
And the heavens proclaim his righteousness,
for he is a God of justice.**

**For this God is our God for ever and ever;
he will be our guide even to the end. Amen.**

(Psalm 48, 50)

Hymn

I stand amazed in the presence
of Jesus, the Nazarene,
and wonder how He could love me,
a sinner, condemned, unclean.

*How marvellous, how wonderful!
And my song shall ever be:
How marvellous, how wonderful
is my Saviour's love for me!*

For me it was in the garden
He prayed: Not My will, but Thine.
He had no tears for His own griefs,
But sweat drops of blood for mine.

In pity angels beheld Him,
And came from the world of light
To comfort Him in the sorrows
He bore for my soul that night.

He took my sins and my sorrows;
He made them His very own;
He bore the burden to Calvary
and suffered and died alone.

When with the ransomed in glory
His face I at last shall see,
'twill be my joy through the ages
to sing of His love for me.

[Written in 1905]

Our First Reading

Joshua 3:1-13 (New International Version)

3 Early in the morning Joshua and all the Israelites set out from Shittim and went to the Jordan, where they camped before crossing over. ² After three days the officers went throughout the camp, ³ giving orders to the people: "When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the Levitical priests carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. ⁴ Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before. But keep a distance of about two thousand cubits between you and the ark; do not go near it."

⁵ Joshua told the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you."

⁶ Joshua said to the priests, "Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on ahead of the people." So they took it up and went ahead of them.

⁷ And the LORD said to Joshua, "Today I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses. ⁸ Tell the priests who carry the ark of the covenant: 'When you reach the edge of the Jordan's waters, go and stand in the river.'"

⁹ Joshua said to the Israelites, "Come here and listen to the words of the LORD your God. ¹⁰ This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites. ¹¹ See, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you. ¹² Now then, choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. ¹³ And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the LORD—the Lord of all the earth—set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap."

Hymn

When peace like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to know
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

*It is well, (it is well),
With my soul, (with my soul)
It is well, it is well, with my soul.*

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live:
If Jordan above me shall roll,
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life,
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.

But Lord, 'tis for Thee, for Thy coming we wait,
The sky, not the grave, is our goal;
Oh, trump of the angel! Oh, voice of the Lord!
Blesséd hope, blesséd rest of my soul.

And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
A song in the night, oh my soul!

[Written in 1873]

In this time of silent prayer let us pray for the new Mayor of Nuneaton and Bedworth - Councillor June Tandy. She was first elected to represent the Attleborough Ward in May 2012 and has selected The George Eliot Hospital Serenity Garden as her Mayoral Charity.

Many of us know our neighbours quite well. Pray for them by name and ask God how you might encourage them in this coming week.

The European Elections will be held in the UK this coming Thursday (23rd May). Seven political parties are fielding candidates for the West Midlands Region, of which we are a part. In this time of continued uncertainty about Brexit, pray that the electorate will use their vote wisely.

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.**

Gill's Story