

I pray that the LORD  
will bless and protect you,  
and that he will show you mercy  
and kindness.

May the LORD be good to you  
and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26 [Contemporary English Version]

**All: We go to serve You God and to be an encouragement to others that we meet. As You have blessed us, help us to be a blessing to our families, friends and strangers. We seek to spread Your love and joyfulness in Your strength and with Your devotion. Be magnified through us God. 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 1st September.

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

# Nuneaton Christian Fellowship

18th August 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

As part of the world-wide Church, we have come to praise You God.

**All: With a clean heart and open arms.**

Your vicarious sacrifice has changed the lives of many millions of people around the earth.

**All: The whole Church exalts You.**

What monumental assurance and hope You have given us God! You walk with us throughout our lives.

**All: You are the same yesterday, today and forever.**

### Hymn

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.

## Sermon

### Hymn

God sent His Son, they called him Jesus,  
He came to love, heal and forgive;  
He lived and died, to buy my pardon,  
An empty grave is there to prove my Saviour lives.

*Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,  
Because He lives, all fear is gone;  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living just because He lives.*

How sweet to hold a new-born baby,  
And feel the pride, and joy he gives;  
But sweeter still the calm assurance,  
This child can face uncertain days because He lives.

And then one day I'll cross the river,  
I'll fight life's final war with pain;  
And then as death gives way to victory,  
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives.

[Written in 1969]

### Closing Prayers

**All: You reign in our lives and throughout the whole earth.  
We acknowledge You as our Lord and Saviour - today,  
this month and forever. We rejoice that we are Your children  
and that You have made us new creations. Amen.**

## Our Second Reading

### Psalm 97 (New International Version)

- <sup>1</sup> The LORD reigns, let the earth be glad;  
let the distant shores rejoice.
- <sup>2</sup> Clouds and thick darkness surround him;  
righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.
- <sup>3</sup> Fire goes before him  
and consumes his foes on every side.
- <sup>4</sup> His lightning lights up the world;  
the earth sees and trembles.
- <sup>5</sup> The mountains melt like wax before the LORD,  
before the Lord of all the earth.
- <sup>6</sup> The heavens proclaim his righteousness,  
and all peoples see his glory.
- <sup>7</sup> All who worship images are put to shame,  
those who boast in idols—  
worship him, all you gods!
- <sup>8</sup> Zion hears and rejoices  
and the villages of Judah are glad  
because of your judgments, LORD.
- <sup>9</sup> For you, LORD, are the Most High over all the earth;  
you are exalted far above all gods.
- <sup>10</sup> Let those who love the LORD hate evil,  
for he guards the lives of his faithful ones  
and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
- <sup>11</sup> Light shines on the righteous  
and joy on the upright in heart.
- <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in the LORD, you who are righteous,  
and praise his holy name.

The Lord has promised good to me,  
His Word my hope secures;  
He will my Shield and Portion be,  
As long as life endures.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
And mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess, within the veil,  
A life of joy and peace.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,  
The sun forbear to shine;  
But God, who called me here below,  
Will be forever mine.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.

[Written in 1772]

### Prayer

**All: Loving Heavenly Father, we are so grateful for what You have done in our lives. Thank You that Your steadfast love, compassion and kindness are new every morning. We need You in our lives. We look forward to what the future holds because You are the centre of who we are and what we do. Be praised in our lives gracious God. Amen.**

Offertory Hymn

*Bless the Lord O my soul  
O my soul,  
Worship His Holy name;  
Sing like never before  
O my soul,  
I'll worship Your Holy name.*

The sun comes up  
It's a new day dawning,  
It's time to sing Your song again;  
Whatever may pass  
And whatever lies before me  
Let me be singing  
When the evening comes.

You're rich in love  
And You're slow to anger,  
Your name is great  
And Your heart is kind;  
For all Your goodness  
I will keep on singing,  
Ten thousand reasons  
For my heart to find.

And on that day  
When my strength is failing,  
The end draws near  
And my time has come,  
Still my soul will  
Sing Your praise unending,  
Ten thousand years  
And then forevermore.

[Written in 2011]

'Tis His love His people raises  
Over self to reign as kings,  
And as priests, His solemn praises  
Each for a thank off'ring brings.

Saviour, if of Zion's city,  
I through grace a member am,  
Let the world deride or pity,  
I will glory in Thy name;  
Fading is the worldling's pleasure,  
All his boasted pomp and show;  
Solid joys and lasting treasure  
None but Zion's children know.

[Written in 1779]

Prayer

Let us say together:  
**We have heard it with our ears, O God;  
our ancestors have told us  
what you did in their days,  
in days long ago.  
It was not by their sword that they won the land,  
nor did their arm bring them victory;  
it was your right hand, your arm,  
and the light of your face, for you loved them.  
I put no trust in my bow,  
my sword does not bring me victory;  
but you give us victory over our enemies,  
you put our adversaries to shame.  
In God we make our boast all day long,  
and we will praise your name forever. Amen.**

(Psalm 44:1,3,6-8)

## Our First Reading

James 5:7-20 (New International Version)

### Hymn

Glorious things of thee are spoken,  
Zion, city of our God!  
He, whose Word cannot be broken,  
Formed thee for His own abode;  
On the Rock of Ages founded,  
What can shake thy sure repose?  
With salvation's walls surrounded,  
Thou mayst smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters,  
Springing from eternal love,  
Well supply thy sons and daughters,  
And all fear of want remove:  
Who can faint while such a river  
Ever flows their thirst t' assuage?  
Grace which, like the Lord, the giver,  
Never fails from age to age.

Round each habitation hov'ring,  
See the cloud and fire appear,  
For a glory and a cov'ring,  
Showing that the Lord is near;  
Thus deriving from our banner  
Light by night and shade by day,  
Safe they feed upon the manna  
Which He gives them when they pray.

Blest inhabitants of Zion,  
Washed in the Redeemer's blood!  
Jesus, whom their souls rely on,  
Makes them kings and priests to God;

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. <sup>8</sup> You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. <sup>9</sup> Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

<sup>10</sup> Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

<sup>11</sup> As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

<sup>12</sup> Above all, my brothers and sisters, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. All you need to say is a simple "Yes" or "No." Otherwise you will be condemned.

<sup>13</sup> Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup> Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup> And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup> Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

<sup>17</sup> Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. <sup>18</sup> Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

<sup>19</sup> My brothers and sisters, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring that person back, <sup>20</sup> remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

### Hymn

All hail the power of Jesus' name!  
Let angels prostrate fall;  
Bring forth the royal diadem,  
And crown Him, crown Him, crown Him,  
Crown Him Lord of all.

Crown Him, ye martyrs of your God,  
Who from His altar call;  
Extol Him in whose path ye trod,  
And crown Him Lord of all.

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race,  
Ye ransomed of the Fall,  
Hail Him who saves you by His grace,  
And crown Him Lord of all.

Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget  
The wormwood and the gall,  
Go, spread your trophies at His feet,  
And crown Him Lord of all.

Let every kindred, every tribe  
On this terrestrial ball,  
To Him all majesty ascribe,  
And crown Him Lord of all.

O that with yonder sacred throng,  
We at His feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song,  
And crown Him Lord of all.

[Written in 1779]

In this time of silent prayer let us again pray for Pastor Simon Whitley of Rugby Elim. Only in his late 30s, he has been very ill with the effects of cancer for almost a year. Pray again for a breakthrough to occur and for God to be glorified in him, Lisa (his wife) and their two young children (Myles and Edith).

There are six prisons within 30 miles of Nuneaton: HMP Birmingham (1,028 inmate capacity), HMYOI Swinfen Hall (624 capacity), HMP Gartree (707 capacity), HMP Leicester (408 capacity), HMP Onley (742 capacity) and HMP Rye Hill (664 capacity). Pray for the Governors, staff, inmates & their families.

There will be quite a few people who are housebound in Nuneaton. This might be due to age, a physical illness, a mental illness or a lack of help to get out. Pray for them and those who try to care for them. May they be encouraged today.

### 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.**

Alma's Story