

The LORD bless you and protect 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 [New English Translation]

All: May the Lord of heaven and earth continue to inspire us in our homes and wherever we find ourselves in the coming weeks. May the God of justice consume us for the benefit of others and may the God of compassion help us to love those who make us feel awkward. We praise You for speaking to us this evening. Be enthroned in our lives. 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 15th 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

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

Nuneaton Christian Fellowship

1st September 2019 - 6.00pm

We warmly welcome you
to our Traditional Evening Service
which is being led by
Rev. David Rhodes
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

Living God, the Creator of all the earth.

All: We highly esteem You.

You have made a way for us to know and love You.

All: We highly esteem You.

You have turned our mourning into gladness of heart;
our shame into rejoicing.

All: We highly esteem You.

Hymn

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise!
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace!

Jesus! the Name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life, and health, and peace.

See all your sins on Jesus laid;
The Lamb of God was slain;
His soul was once an offering made
For every soul of man.

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: Thank You glorious Lord that You believe in us. You love us and You continue to show longanimity towards us. Be our all in all today and forever. We delight to follow You and to give You praise through word and action. Amen.

Our Second Reading

Ruth 1:11-22 (New International Version)

¹¹ But Naomi said, “Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands?” ¹² Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me—even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons— ¹³ would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the LORD’s hand has turned against me!”

¹⁴ At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

¹⁵ “Look,” said Naomi, “your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her.”

¹⁶ But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. ¹⁷ Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.” ¹⁸ When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her.

¹⁹ So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women exclaimed, “Can this be Naomi?”

²⁰ “Don’t call me Naomi,” she told them. “Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. ²¹ I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The LORD has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me.”

²² So Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning.

He breaks the power of cancell'd sin,
He sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean,
His blood avail'd for me.

He speaks, and, listening to His voice,
New life the dead receive;
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice;
The humble poor believe.

Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb,
Your loosen'd tongues employ;
Ye blind, behold your Saviour come,
And leap, ye lame, for joy.

My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the world abroad
The honours of Thy name.

[Written in 1739]

Prayer

All: Saviour, we lift our eyes towards You and open our hearts to You. We thank You for Your agonising sacrifice on the cross for us. This enduring atonement has allowed us to be reconciled with You. We consider our lives and ask that You would help us to live in full abandonment to You. Awaken us to Your zeal and power. Stir our hearts, refreshing our hopes, desires and plans for the future. We love You God. Amen.

Offertory Hymn

What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful,
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Saviour, still our refuge—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.

Blessed Saviour, Thou hast promised
Thou wilt all our burdens bear;
May we ever, Lord, be bringing
All to Thee in earnest prayer.
Soon in glory bright, unclouded,
There will be no need for prayer—
Rapture, praise, and endless worship
Will be our sweet portion there.

[Written in 1855]

Prayer

Let us say together:

**I waited patiently for the LORD;
He turned to me and heard my cry.
He lifted me out of the slimy pit,
out of the mud and mire;
He set my feet on a rock
and gave me a firm place to stand.
Many, LORD my God,
are the wonders You have done,
the things You planned for us.
None can compare with You;
were I to speak and tell of Your deeds,
they would be too many to declare.**

**Truly my soul finds rest in God;
my salvation comes from Him.
Truly He is my rock and my salvation;
He is my fortress, I shall never be shaken.
Yes, my soul, find rest in God;
my hope comes from Him.
Truly He is my rock and my salvation;
He is my fortress, I shall not be shaken.
My salvation and my honour depend on God;
He is my mighty rock, my refuge.
Trust in Him at all times, you people;
pour out your hearts to Him,
for God is our refuge.**

**'Power belongs to You, God,
and with You, Lord, is unfailing love.'
Amen.**

(Psalms 40, 62)

Our First Reading

Hymn

Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
Through eternal ages let His praises ring,
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
Standing on the promises of God.

*Standing, standing,
Standing on the promises of God my Saviour;
Standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.*

Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
By the living Word of God I shall prevail,
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises I now can see
Perfect, present cleansing in the blood for me;
Standing in the liberty where Christ makes free,
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
Bound to Him eternally by love's strong cord,
Overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
Standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
List'ning every moment to the Spirit's call,
Resting in my Saviour as my all in all,
Standing on the promises of God.

[Written in 1886]

Ruth 1:1-10 (New International Version)

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land. So a man from Bethlehem in Judah, together with his wife and two sons, went to live for a while in the country of Moab. ² The man's name was Elimelek, his wife's name was Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Kilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem, Judah. And they went to Moab and lived there.

³ Now Elimelek, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴ They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, ⁵ both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband.

⁶ When Naomi heard in Moab that the LORD had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them, she and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. ⁷ With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah.

⁸ Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the LORD show you kindness, as you have shown kindness to your dead husbands and to me. ⁹ May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband."

Then she kissed them goodbye and they wept aloud ¹⁰ and said to her, "We will go back with you to your people."

Hymn

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,
Trusting only Thee;
Trusting Thee for full salvation,
Great and free.

I am trusting Thee for pardon;
At Thy feet I bow;
For Thy grace and tender mercy,
Trusting now.

I am trusting Thee for cleansing
In the crimson flood;
Trusting Thee to make me holy
By Thy blood.

I am trusting Thee for power,
Thine can never fail;
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me
Must prevail.

I am trusting Thee to guide me;
Thou alone shalt lead;
Every day and hour supplying
All my need.

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;
Never let me fall;
I am trusting Thee forever,
And for all.

[Written in 1874]

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).

Thousands of school children will be returning to school around the Borough this coming week. Many will even be starting at the 'big school.' Pray that the Lord would help them to transition to their new classrooms and to the new staff members around them. Pray for their parents/carers too, as regular routines are established again.

We have four MPs who work in or close to Nuneaton: Marcus Jones (Nuneaton), Craig Tracey (North Warwickshire and Bedworth), Mark Pawsey (Rugby and Bulkington) and David Tredinnick (Bosworth and Hinckley). May God help them to represent their diverse constituents well.

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.**

Communion