

Now, write a letter to a friend to express what you believe in.

Note that my greatest encouragement is that you believe in Jesus Christ to inherit abundant life.

4. May have eternal life – This life is better in quality, richer in quantity, and lengthier than our timescale. It is an unending fellowship with God. Attending to this reflection suggests that we have life, meaning, that our lungs are constantly activated by the breath of God, freely given. Being alive in the body is the basis on which we strive for a life that is superior, a joyful life with no end in view. Again, such a life is a gift from God.

In this crossword puzzle, identify the following words: Father, Son, God, Jesus, World, Belief, Perish, Life, Save, Love, Everyone, Only and Give.

A	B	X	F	A	T	H	E	R	E
S	O	N	L	Y	G	Y	G	V	V
L	I	F	E	D	O	Z	A	J	E
W	O	R	L	D	D	S	I	T	R
U	A	V	G	I	F	T	P	P	Y
V	E	B	E	L	I	E	F	T	O
W	P	E	R	I	S	H	M	L	N
J	E	S	U	S	G	I	V	E	E

Use them to write or say a prayer of deliverance for the world.

Hymn: 276 'Lift high the Cross'

God's Promise: 'Those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake,

and for the sake of the gospel, will save it" (Mark 8:35).

Prayers

Lord, today, to the church that continues to minister faithfully during this lockdown, give power, vision, and a real purpose that offers hope,

All: **and quench our thirst with the living water.**

To those whose lands have been stolen, wealth extracted, and livelihood destroyed; bring justice, restoration, and new starts,

All: **and transform the lives of the merciless.**

To those who are anxious and bereaved; bring calm and tranquillity,

All: **and renew their comfort, day by day.**

To those infected by the coronavirus and mental illness, to the terminally ill patients, and other patients; bring healing and hope,

All: **and to their nurses, doctors, and the medical staff; skills and sensitivity.**

To the abused, give a reassuring embrace, the warmth of your presence,

All: **and send messengers to distract and remove their abusers.**

To oppressed people, divided by political unrests, bring the dawn of a liberating new day, All: **and to their leaders; the wisdom to act justly. Amen!**

Pray for the needs of people who are on your mind, for the concerns of the local community, and other concerns.....

In the name of Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

In the Name of Christ. The Lord's Prayer!

Our Response:

"Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live" (Psalm 116:2).

Hymn: 704 'In labour all creation groans'.

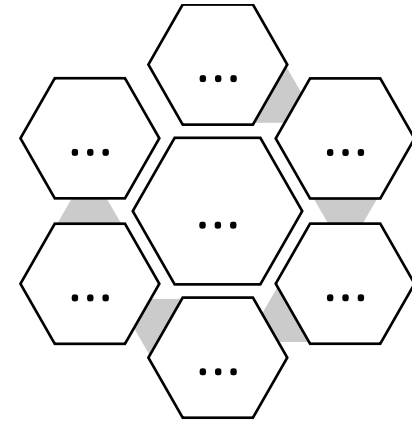
The Blessing – **Amen!**

By Rev Marcus Torchon

COVENTRY AND NUNEATON
METHODIST CIRCUIT

Worship is our Way of Life!

Christ be God's



Gift to US!

(Where will you put Christ in this Cycle?)

on
Lord's Day, 19th September 2021

Reading:
Psalm 98: 1-5
Numbers 21:4b-9 & John 3:13-17

<>**This sheet's content is exclusively for home worship**<>

Come, Let us Worship!

Order of Service

Invocation: “Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises” (Psalm 98:4).

Petition: “What must I do to be saved?” (Acts 16:30).

Affirmation: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life” (John 3:16).

**We sing hymns 353 “Jesus is Lord!”,
44 ‘Come on and Celebrate’**

Prayer of Adoration: Lord, you are ever faithful; your abiding presence is constant; your promises are real and trustworthy; your love is not a ‘sell by date’ product, but an unconditional gift to us – so we bow down on our knees in worship; we recline in a chair to glorify you; we sit on the sofa to contemplate your majesty; we’ll clap our hands and sing your praises in the office, car, boat, airplane, classroom, garden, kitchen, **Lord we worship you!**

Prayer of Confession: You have been on this journey with us, when we fail to recognize and embrace you, when we neglect to rely on your promises, when we get carried away in self-indulgence, when we complain more than we trust and thank you – **Lord, have mercy and forgive us!**

Prayer of Thanksgiving: Lord we give thanks for:

- ✚ Salvation in Jesus Christ!
- ✚ People who have been caring for us!
- ✚ The breath of life in us today!
- ✚ Healing, fellowship, and wellbeing!
- ✚ Food, shelter, and safety!
- ✚ Family, friends, and neighbours!
- ✚ Jobs, works, and businesses!
- ✚ Peace and security in our nation!

...on this Lord’s Day. **Through Christ our Lord.**

Amen!

Reading: Numbers 21:4b-9 & John 3:13-17

We sing: 407 ‘Hear the Call’

Reflection – Let’s meditate on John 3:16

I offer to reflect on this verse in four parts:

1. For God so loved the world – In John’s Gospel Jesus refers many times to God as Father to describe the bond and depth of the unfailing intimacy they share. The depth of love with which the Father loved the Son was offered to the world in the gift of the Son. This offer demonstrated how much God loved the world, despite its imperfections. In that love, the world, that is, the human race, may be saved from their sins by believing in Jesus that we’re loved by God.

2. He gave his only Son – God gave us the Son who became human so that through him God has been reclaiming and drawing us to the tri-une God. “He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?” (Romans 8.32). Church, please, outline seven of these ‘all things’ you have received from God. You may choose to:

- Describe the first one,

- Draw, paint or colour the second,

- Send or post pics of the third to social media,

- Name the fourth,

- Touch the fifth,

- Put the sixth into poetry,

- Tell the story of how you received the seventh,

Nothing we have on offer compensates for the unrivalled generosity of God in the gift of his Son to the world. Even so, we can love the Lord, albeit to a lesser depth than the depth with which he

loves us. Even so, we have a call to “love the Lord our God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our strength and with all our mind” and to “love our neighbours as ourselves” (Luke 10:37). In this act of love, we surrender our life as an offering to our Lord.

3. Everyone who believes in him may not perish – Believing in God is not the private gift of a self-proclaimed type of people or a chosen ethnic group. Everyone is invited to believe. Still, we may be fully participants in and enablers to each other’s belief in God by pointing Jesus out, highly lifted on the Cross. “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up”, “that whoever believes in him may have eternal life” (John 3:14-15).

The emphasis is on lifting up and healing and not on the Jesus of the Cross being compared with the image of a serpent. While Moses’ lifting up was for the healing of the Israelites from snake bites, Jesus’ being-lifted-up was for the healing of nations from sin. We suffer from serpent’s sinful bites; yet we are healed by the Jesus of the Cross’. “He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by his wounds, you were healed” (1 Peter 2:24).

The gift of love to us and the birth of belief in us with which we receive such a love are the works of God to be nurtured and practiced in the fellowship of the church and the community, within the proximity of the Son, our Saviour. Church, express what you believe in:

1. ...

2. ...

3. ...

4. ...