

### A Prayer of Adoration

Creator God, you are our all, you created and crafted us. God of the journey, you are our journey, our aim, our purpose, our goal. God of welcome, you receive each of us, no matter who and what we are. God of peace, you give us peace, and you call us to be one in you and to share that peace - Amen.

## **Coffee Shop Sunday (CSS) is a ministry of Stream 3 Evangelism and Church Plant of the Coventry and Nuneaton Circuit**



### **Coffee Shop Sunday** *Meeting God in an Ordinary Place*

**Introduction:** I was asked by our Superintendent, Marcus Torchon to write this week's Worship Sheet, with an emphasis on the story of CSS. I glanced at the set lectionary Readings for 3rd July and lo and behold we have the gospel reading from Luke about Jesus sending out seventy two of his followers **in pairs** to spread his message.

A co-incidence? – I think not. God has been at the centre of all that we do in CSS since we began our journey just two and a half years ago.

**What's Coffee Shop Sunday (CSS):** CSS is a new expression of church **in the Coventry and Nuneaton Circuit** with an emphasis on intentional modern style of worship with five principles namely:

- Collaboration
- Accessibility
- Fellowship
- Inclusiveness
- Encouragement

We have face to face worship locally in ordinary places, and online activity on Zoom and Facebook seven days a week. We now have 820 participant members of CSS across five continents – Europe, US, Africa, Asia, and Australia.

One of the exciting ideas we are discussing in our leadership team is the concept of a 'nomadic' presence which would mean CSS travels around the circuit supporting local churches and encouraging more examples of informal worship. This is exciting and brings with it, elements of risk.

We are taking with us 'on the road' a different approach than traditional worship, and it does not receive unanimous approval. Many people are understandably comfortable with the status quo and the CSS model may not work for everyone. Nevertheless, we have discovered in the last two years that there is a need for this style, and we want to branch out and reach more people. We are particularly keen to bring people to God thus increasing His kingdom. Those who may not have a faith or those who may be looking for a different, more informal model of worship. We now feel ready to take our CSS message 'on the road' across our Circuit – and indeed well beyond – and this is where the link comes to the Luke reading in the lectionary for this week.

**Prayer for Kingdom Growth: "Pray that the Lord may add daily to his church those who are being saved" (2:47)**

**Luke 10: 1-11, 16-20**

**We hear how Jesus sends seventy two people ahead of him, in pairs, to spread the good news. He tells them to take little with them, gratefully receiving hospitality when it is offered and moving on swiftly when it is not. Jesus says that if people will not listen to their message, it is God they are rejecting. When the seventy two return, they are fully of joy from their experience and what they were able to do in Jesus' name.**

That model was two thousand years ago and today, spreading the good news, engaging in hospitality, and sharing God's peace – are still relevant and appropriate ways of giving and receiving God's blessings.

In 2022 CSS will not be seeking 'hospitality' – though of course it would be graciously received as we try to spread the message about CSS. We just want to bring, to all parts of our circuit, our experience of 30 months of informal worship, face to face and online, as we have met God in ordinary places.

We pray that we will be welcomed across our circuit, and we hope people will engage with us as we take our message 'on the road.'

**Our CSS Worship Bus that travelled around Coventry last year**



**News!:** We are planning Coffee Shop Sunday (CSS) 'fellowship time' over the weekend of 19th and 20th November. Part of the plan for that weekend, (on Sunday 19th) is that **two members** of the CSS team will go to each of the fifteen churches in our Circuit to talk about what we do in CSS. It also presents an opportunity for CSS to offer prayers for each of the churches.

**Prayer for Kingdom Growth:** "Pray that the Lord may add daily to his church those who are being saved" (2:47)

**A Prayer of Praise**

We bless you Holy God, that you journey with us.  
That you hold us by the hand and guide us.  
That you never force us or drag us.  
That you accompany us on every step of life's journey.  
That you are with us in our waking and in our sleeping.  
That you are with us in stillness and our doing.  
That you are with us in our journeying and our arriving and our departing.  
That from the moment of our birth, to the moment of our dying, and beyond, you are our God.  
We bless you Holy God, that you journey with us. – Amen.

**Songs to play online and sing along to:**

Bless the Lord O My Soul – Matt Redman – the CSS signature tune

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXDGE\\_IRIOE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DXDGE_IRIOE)

God who sets us on a journey

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vI2\\_WL9Txo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vI2_WL9Txo)

Jesus Christ – My Living hope – Phil Wickham

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9f2FXxDVO6w>

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