



Roman Road I.M. Church
Failssworth

Sunday 14th June

Worship God with gladness,
Come into his presence and sing his praises.

Prayers of intercession

Loving Lord, you call and equip us to serve you. Watch over those who risk their own safety by caring for others.

Strengthen and protect all those who are persecuted for their faith in places where living a Christian life in peace is not allowed.

Lord, hear us

Loving Lord, you empower us to live out our discipleship. Give wisdom, imagination and the strength to persevere to those who face apathy as they seek to live out their discipleship.

Lord, hear us

Loving Lord, you understand what it means to suffer for what is right. Give comfort and courage to those who are treated unjustly because of their faith, and indeed to all who suffer whatever the reason.

Lord, hear us

In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen

Prayer notes from Tuesday's prayer meeting

Paul opened with Psalm 103 v1-5

- Continue to pray for Joe – Dorothy's Dad, He is currently confined to his room at the care home. Following a nursing assessment he needs to be moved to a nursing home where they can meet his needs. Pray for the family as they try to find a suitable place for him.
- Pray for Mia as she returns to the Naval base this weekend.
- Christine Lambert has had a CT scan on her knee and is waiting the results.
- Pray for Bernie and Frank who have lost their daughter in tragic circumstances. Pray for comfort and peace for the family in this time of sadness.
- Remember our friends Jim and Ann Cheers.
- Give thanks for healing for Margaret Molloy who is now able to get out walking with a stick and has been discharged from hospital.
- Pray for wisdom and guidance as to when we are able to open our church building. Pray for protection over the building.
- Pray for peace on our streets in the wake of the demonstrations following the death of George Floyd.
- Pray for our Parliament – the abortion bill has gone for a second reading and a new divorce bill is currently being debated which will make divorce easier.

The Bible Book of the month for June is Ezra and Nehemiah. I don't know how you are doing – I am still reading Ezra but I found this article in Evangelical Alliance magazine by Sian Rees – Director of EA in Wales, which might help as you read Nehemiah.

As I enter my second year as director of the Evangelical Alliance in Wales, I've been both captivated and challenged once again by the account of Nehemiah. Here was a man living in the citadel of Susa, far removed from the city of Jerusalem which had been demolished by Nebuchadnezzar's armies. On hearing from his brother Hanani of the physical state of Jerusalem's broken-down walls, its burnt-down gates and of those who had survived the exile, we are told that that Nehemiah sat down and mourned, fasted and prayed for some days.

The level of ownership and responsibility Nehemiah takes over the spiritual and physical condition of Jerusalem is profoundly challenging. I wonder when you and I last mourned, fasted and prayed for the condition of our towns, cities and nations? There are days when even watching the news can be difficult as we hear reports of the rise in mental health illnesses, suicide, human trafficking and the many beautiful souls who have died in transit to other countries. What about the increase in homelessness, or the fact that many live in such poverty that they rely on foodbanks

for emergency packages of food? Does it trouble you and me that so many church buildings across the UK lie empty while a nation goes about its' business not knowing that there is a God in heaven who loves them, has great plans for their lives and longs to be in relationship with them?

Let's not allow ourselves to become so accustomed and accepting of the condition of our nation that we become numb. Nehemiah's passion for God's people turned into prayer and action, and I'm convinced that this is a template for how we too should approach spiritual transformation. When the time finally arrived for Nehemiah to approach the king and request that the walls be rebuilt, Artaxerxes asks him a critical question: "What is it you want?" (Nehemiah 2:4). Knowing what we want for our towns and cities surely informs our prayers. What is it that we want for the nations?

What Nehemiah wanted was an opportunity to rebuild. Not only was he willing to take ownership before God for the state of the city and of God's people, he was willing to be used in a practical way to do something about their restoration. I think there's a challenge for us all here in that Nehemiah was fully prepared to be a part of the answer to his own prayers. As Nehemiah declared his willingness to rebuild (Nehemiah 2:17), the people replied, "Let us start rebuilding" (Nehemiah 2:18), and they began the work together.