

Minster Bethel Congregational Church (MBCC)

29/08/2021 --A Time To Rebuild

Together in Christ



Welcome to this weeks thoughts
Today we celebrate our return to Minster Bethel next week. After this last 19 months we
look forward to joining together.

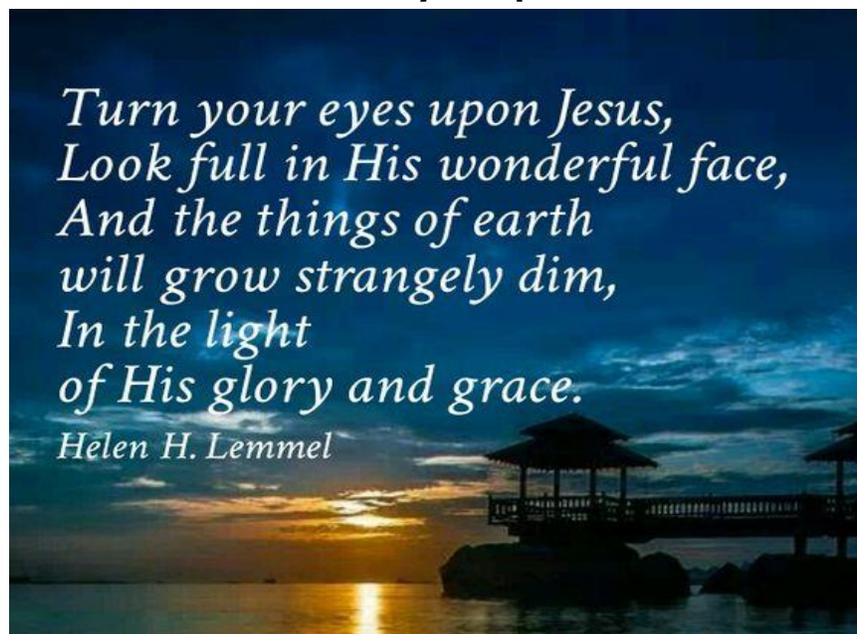
All lockdown services can be found at: www.mbccs.co.uk

Then we will not turn away from you; revive us, and we will call on your name.

Psalm 80:18

Good morning and welcome to this week's thoughts.

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus



As we think about returning to church I remember the first hymn we sang at our first virtual Church Parade: "Come and Join the Celebration"

[Come on and celebrate - YouTube](#)

Come on celebrate his gift of love,
we will celebrate. The son of God who loved us,
And gave us life,
We'll shout your praise O King
You gave us joy, nothing else can bring,
We'll give to you our offering,
In celebration praise

Come on and celebrate, celebrate
Celebrate and sing
Celebrate and sing to the King



The reading today is 1 Peter 2

[1 Peter 2 NIVUK - Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice - Bible Gateway](#)



A time to rebuild: As we think about our return, we first reflect on the last year, for some it will have been a time of loss, sadness and fear, for others a time of loneliness and solitude, there are people who have enjoyed the quiet and not needing to conform. Others have seen great success and opportunity, however strange it has been it has been different for all of us.

We have had to worship in different ways some have joined on-line services, some have watched television services or listened to the radio, others used the sheets or books to meet their spiritual needs. However, we now have the opportunity to come back together as a Christian community.

Now it is time for us to come together as a community.

God created us for relationship the building has stood fast but as described in our reading we, the people, are the rocks that make the church. When we're physically and emotionally disconnected from the body of Christ and the others in our church we lose ourselves and a sense of who we truly are.

We are the body of Christ. It's our connection to each other that makes us the church. We mutually need each other to be what God has called us to be.

Fellowship when done well builds up the soul. There was no way that Covid could stop God's plans, nor us from being a church. It is now the time to adjust, adapt and make those changes that are needed to ensure that the church grows and develops for the future.

Jesus is the cornerstone but each one of us are the stones/bricks of the church.

Another song we have sung during the year is Cornerstone

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus name
My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus name

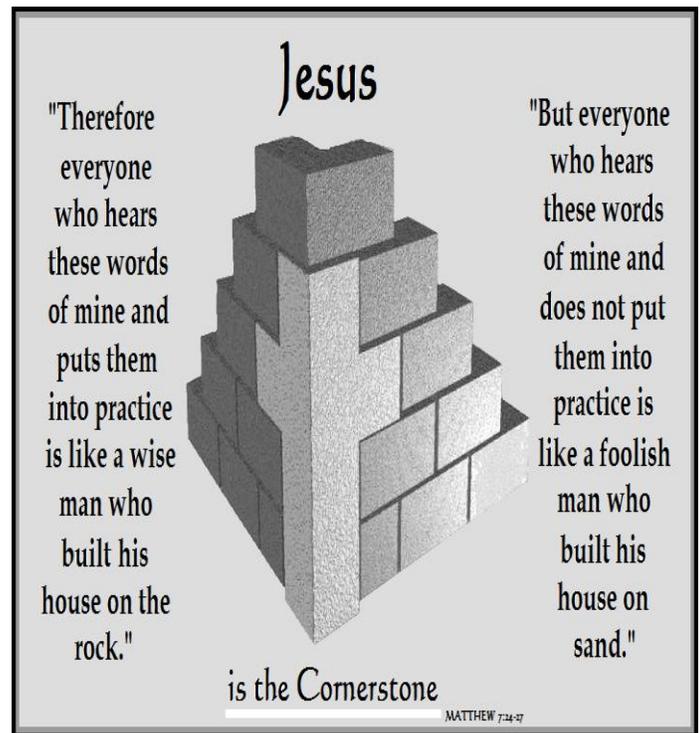
Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love
Through the storm, He is Lord
Lord of all

When darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil

Christ alone, Cornerstone....

When He shall come with trumpet sound
Oh may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless stand before the throne

Christ alone, Cornerstone.....
[Cornerstone - Hillsong - YouTube](#)



Now is the time to rededicate our lives to God.

As we return to church we can join in sharing the word of God, the word that comforts, and yet confronts, encourages, and rebukes.

We need to ensure as we return we are spirit filled people who truly live and act as God wishes so the world around us changes through Gods spirit.

There will always be things that try to pull us away from what we should be focused on, but we must be willing to set them aside and stay focused on what is most important; to know Christ and make him known.

Now is the time to rebuild by recapturing God's vision for our lives.

My last thoughts are that we are part of building Gods kingdom here on earth. That may mean saying the right thing, being just in all we do, remembering its not our place to judge others. We need to lead with and demonstrate integrity. In building Gods Kingdom we need to give hope to all around us, share Gods peace, remain selfless and reflect Gods love in all we do.

I think one of my favourite hymns I have found through this pandemic is a hymn about rebuilding society its called a civic society hymn and the last line of every verse states “Transform, revive and heal society”. As we return to Bethel help us to remember that we have a real opportunity to make the changes that God wants. This hymn is sung to the tune of **Abide with me.**

[We Seek Your Kingdom \(Official Video\) | Noel Robinson, Lou Fellingham, Andy Flannagan, Donna Akodu - YouTube](#)

We seek your kingdom throughout every sphere
We long for heaven’s demonstration here
Jesus, your light shine bright for all to see
Transform, revive and heal society

Before all things, in him all things were made
Inspiring culture, media and trade
May all our work serve your economy
Transform, revive and heal society

Peace, truth and justice reigning everywhere
With us be present in our public square
Fill all who lead with your integrity
Transform, revive and heal society

Forgive us Lord, when we have not engaged
Failing to scribe your heart on history’s page
Make us again what we were made to be
Transform, revive and heal society

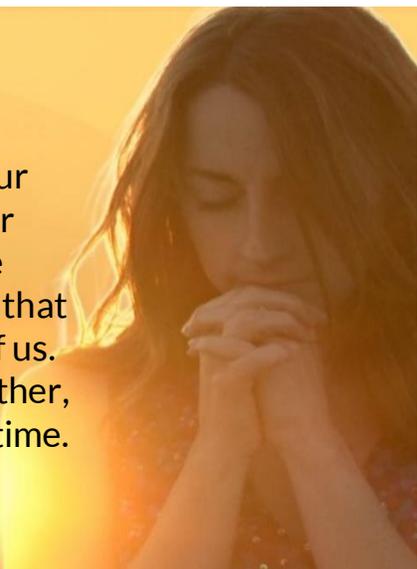
Faithful to govern ever may we be
Selfless in service, loving constantly
In everything may your authority
Transform, revive and heal society

Today’s Pray:

Dear Lord.

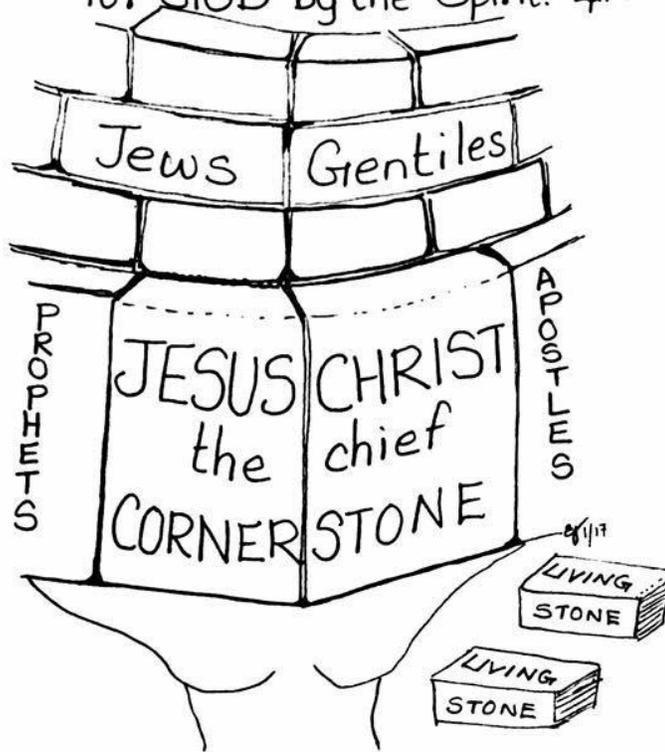
As we end our weekly sheets and move back to our usual place of worship, we pray that you guide our rebuilding of our church community. As we come together, we re-dedicate our lives to you and ask that you help us as we seek your vision for each one of us. We ask that you support us as we support each other, especially those that are unable to return at this time.

Amen.



Scripture Doodle

In HIM you are also being
BUILT TOGETHER into a dwelling place
for GOD by the Spirit. - Eph. 2:22



You also, like living stones,
are being built up as
a SPIRITUAL HOUSE.
- I Peter 2:5

