

Service for Caversham Park – Sunday 27 November 2022 – Advent Sunday  
(Year A)

*Music before the service – please start at 10:55*

*Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme BWV 645 (Netherlands Bach Society)*

**Call to worship**

Rev 22:20 The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen.  
Come, Lord Jesus!

**Hymn** O come, O come, Emmanuel

**Praise**

Let us sing the greatness of the Lord  
and rejoice because God comes to save us.

**Praise the Lord of hope.**

God has come down in blessing  
to the one who is humble, a person unknown,  
and through her is doing a great thing.

**Praise the Lord of grace.**

God is the unchanging one  
steadfast through all generations,  
and now is present with power,  
in the coming of the Christ.

**Praise the Lord of birth and death.**

In God's coming  
those are powerful  
meet the eternal power  
and know how small they are.  
and those who are rich  
meet the riches of grace  
and know their poverty.

**Yes, Lord, come in power.**

God who led Abraham  
and called Moses to his service  
and spoke through many prophets,  
come near us in a baby  
cradled in the womb of Mary

**to be a blessing for ever,  
Jesus, our shepherd king.**

## **Confession**

When the Lord comes,  
he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness,  
and will disclose the purposes of the heart.  
Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

**O God of justice, we have heard your commandments and they are a gift to us. Yet we have failed always to live by them.**

**For this we are sorry and we turn to you for forgiveness.**

**We have not loved you wholeheartedly.**

**We have failed in love to our neighbours and to ourselves.**

**We have not loved our enemies or blessed those who do us harm.**

**We live in an unjust world, where many are hungry, and there is little peace.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

## **Pardon**

Hear the good news!

Who is to condemn?

It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised,  
who is at the right hand of God,  
who indeed intercedes for us.

*Romans 8:34*

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

**Amen.**

Receive God's gift of forgiveness, and be at peace.

## **Theme Introduction**

### **Collect**

Almighty God,  
give us grace to cast away the works of darkness  
and to put on the armour of light,  
now in the time of this mortal life,  
in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility;  
that on the last day,  
when he shall come again in his glorious majesty

to judge the living and the dead,  
we may rise to the life immortal;  
through him who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**Reading 1**     Isaiah 2:1-5 (NRSV)

**Psalm 122**

1 I was glad when they said to me,  
'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'

**2 And now our feet are standing  
within your gates, O Jerusalem;**

3 Jerusalem, built as a city  
that is at unity in itself.

**4 Thither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,  
as is decreed for Israel,  
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.**

5 For there are set the thrones of judgement,  
the thrones of the house of David.

**6 O pray for the peace of Jerusalem:  
'May they prosper who love you.**

7 'Peace be within your walls  
and tranquillity within your palaces.'

**8 For my kindred and companions' sake,  
I will pray that peace be with you.**

9 For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,  
I will seek to do you good.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Hymn**             Make Way

**Reading 2**     Romans 13:11-14

**Reading 3**     Matthew 26:36-44

*EW Music*

**Hymn**            Wake, O wake!

**Sermon**

**Hymn**            Our God reigns

**Prayers of intercession**

Response: Maranatha! **Come, Lord Jesus!**

**Offering**

**Notices**

**Hymn**            Lo, he comes with clouds descending

**Blessing**

May Christ the Son of Righteousness shine upon us,  
scatter the darkness from before our path,  
and make us ready to meet him when he comes in glory.

**Amen.**

Let us bless one another with the Grace:

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with us all, now and for ever. Amen.**