

CAVERSHAM PARK  
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Christmas Day  
Service order  
(Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2022)  
Year A

## **We Gather and Prepare**

***Please stand as The BIBLE is carried in.***

**1st Hymn - Joy to the World (MP393)  
(Sung during entry)**

*(On Screen)*

This is the day the Lord has made.

**So, let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All And also with you.**

**Turn to each other and say:**

*'Jesus Loves you and so do I' (Followed by Candles)*

**\*\*Bell call\*\***

**\*\*On Screen**

I bring you good news of great joy:  
A saviour has been born to you. Alleluia.

Unto us a child is born.

**All Unto us a Son is given. Alleluia.**

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord

**All Thanks be to God**

Today is Christmas Day, in which we recall the hope we have in Christ. Today we light again the candles of hope, peace, love and joy.

*Ask for those who wish to light a candle (Max 4)*

**First Candle - Hope (The Patriarchs, Abraham, the Old Testament Ancestors of Jesus)**

We speak of hope - because God keeps his promises to us.

**Second Candle – Peace (The prophets who foretold the birth of Jesus)**

We work for peace - because Jesus is the 'Prince of Peace' and he calls his children to work for peace in his name.

**Third Candle – Joy (John The Baptist)**

We show Joy - because Jesus gave everything for us and led us to know the forgiveness of God.

**Fourth Candle – Love (Mary the Mother of Jesus)**

We share Love - because the Holy Spirit fills our hearts and minds with the presence the God

**Last Candle – The Birth of Christ (Christmas Day)**

Now we light our last candle to remember the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. As the prophets promised so long ago, you have come to us once again; and with the shepherds, we are filled with wonder and amazement.

(Prayer by Margaret)

Lord, you come as a tiny, fragile baby; yet we know that you are God and you are with us. May the flame of this candle remind us that you are the light of the world and that if we follow you, we will never walk in darkness, but will have the true light of life.

**\*\*On Screen**

**All Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.**

He is Christ the Lord. Alleluia:

**All We worship and adore him. Alleluia.**

**2nd Hymn - O come all ye faithful (MP491)**

**\*\*Lighting of Candles for ALL\*\***

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:

*“You shall call his name Jesus. For he will save his people from their sins”. Therefore, let us seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus the saviour of the world.*

*Say after I say the words “We have sinned” the words “Forgive and heal us”*

Lord of grace and truth, we confess our unworthiness to stand in your presence as your children. We have sinned:

**All Forgive and heal us.**

The Virgin Mary accepted your call to be the Mother of Jesus. Forgive our disobedience to your will. We have sinned.

**All Forgive and heal us.**

Your Son our Saviour was born in poverty in a manger. Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways. We have sinned.

**All Forgive and heal us.**

The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem. Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision. We have sinned.

**All Forgive and heal us.**

The wise men followed the star to find Jesus the King. Forgive our reluctance to seek you. We have sinned.

**All Forgive and heal us.**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw us to himself, and cleanse us from all our sins, that we may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All** Amen.

**\*\*On Screen**

The Word made flesh and lived among us.

**All** and we have seen his Glory.

**All** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on Earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father. We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your Glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us: you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the Glory of God the Father.

Amen

Almighty God, You have given us your only begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin; grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

**3rd Hymn - See him lying on a bed of straw (MP589)**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading – Isaiah 9:2-7**

**Psalm 96 (Read by alternate versus)**

**4th Hymn - O little town of Bethlehem (MP503)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading (Gospel) - Luke 2:1-20**

**Sermon** followed by

**Sermon Prayer**

**Our Affirmation of Faith**

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God, as we say together.

**\*\*On Screen**

**All** Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God, but made himself nothing.

Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness.

He humbled himself and was obedient to death, even death on the cross.

**Therefore, God has raised him on high, and given him the name above every name: that of the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the Glory of God the Father.**

**Amen**

**5th Hymn – While shepherds watched their flocks (MP764)  
(Collection during this hymn)**

**Prayers** - Intercessions are offered.

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**All** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Now the Notices**

**\*\*On Screen**

**All** Christmas Christ, I offer you my hands:  
I will try to hold the weak and keep them safe.  
Christmas Christ, I offer you my mind:  
I will try to see the world with fresh and loving eyes.  
Christmas Christ I offer you my heart:  
I will try to risk my comfortable life for your sweet sake.  
**Amen**

Jesus Christ, Babe of Bethlehem, Prince of Peace, fill us with such joy that we must share it; with such love that we must live it; with such peace that we must give it.

Fill us with your gracious Spirit, so that through our lives your blessings fill the world. May God, who has called us out of darkness into his marvellous light, bless us and fill us with peace.

**All Amen**

In the power of the Holy Spirit we now go forth into the world, to fulfil our calling as the people of God, the body of Christ.

**\*\*On screen**

**All** Christ is our light that illumines and guides us. Christ as our shield that overshadows us. Christ is under us; Christ is over us; Christ is beside us and on our left and on our right. This day be within and without us, lowly and meek and yet all powerful. Be in the heart of each in whom we speak; in the mouth of each who speaks unto us. This day be within and without us, lowly and meek, yet all powerful. Christ as our light; Christ as our shield; Christ beside us on our left and on our right.

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with us, wherever He may send us. May he guide us

through the wilderness, protect us through the storm. May He bring us home rejoicing once again into our doors.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

**6th Hymn—Hark the herald angels sing (MP211)**

*Bible is carried out during the last Hymn*