

## **Service for Caversham Park URC, Sunday 12 February 2023**

### **Call to Worship and Lighting Candles**

Welcome to Caversham Park United Reformed Church, both you who are here at Caversham Park School, and those watching our online service.

This is the Sunday nearest to St Valentine's Day, and the Green Christian organisation is asking churches to use the theme of "Show Your Love" to focus on creation and what we are doing to it.

It is also the second Sunday before Lent, and I am using the readings for that day, which fit very well.

We will begin by lighting our candles to symbolise the presence of Christ in this place, and in the world that was created through him, and to pray for any special needs or situations we know about. In particular we pray for all the victims of the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.

**Hymn**            Morning has broken

### **Prayers of Approach, Adoration and Confession**

#### **For our world of beauty and plenty**

Creator God. For our world of beauty and plenty, we praise you-For the earth, the seas, the plants, the animals and all the wonders of the universe. We stand before you in awe and wonder in all that you have created. Thank you for your generosity, a world for all to share. Create in us a desire to come together as One World for Now is the Time to Act.

Redeemer God. Have mercy on us for our over consumption of the world's resources, For our lack of responsibility in devastating the habitats of your creatures, For our thoughtlessness in filling the world with our rubbish, For the pursuit of economic growth which leaves our brothers and sisters in poverty. Forgive us our selfishness, that has led to this climate crisis, and bring us together as One World for Now is the Time to Act.

Sustainer God. Be generous in your gifts of wisdom, understanding and courage to help us see: the interconnectedness of climate, nature and our lifestyles, our responsibility to secure a future for our children, and the urgency to act now. Inspire us to change personally, in our local communities, as nations and at a global level for we are One World, climate changes everything, and Now is the Time to Act.

**Maureen Thompson**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

God loves the world and everything in it, the land and sea, the living things, and all the people of the world. He sent Jesus to save us, and Jesus says to all who repent of their sins and turn to him: Your sins are forgiven.

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

### **Collect for the Day**

Almighty God,  
you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ

your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**First Reading** Genesis 1:1-2:3

**Psalm** 136

**Second Reading** Romans 8:18-25

**Hymn** All creatures of our God and King

**Sermon**

**Hymn** All my hope on God is founded

**Thanksgiving and Intercession**

Creator of all, Whose breath formed all life on the earth, We praise you for the majesty and beauty of all you have made. We thank you for revealing yourself through your creation; from the grandeur of the skies to the exquisite detail of the tiniest petal.

Father of all, We know it grieves your heart to see the patterns of destruction at work in so much of the natural world, where we have deliberately, knowingly or unwittingly met our needs and wants without regard for the needs of other species to survive. And particularly where we have pursued lifestyles that have changed the climate on which others depends for their very lives. We have done so using the great gifts you have given us – of exploration, science, invention and technology. And have become reliant on over-exploitation to retain our jobs and livelihoods.

Help us see the world through the eyes of your heart. Help us use those same gifts to find new ways to pursue livelihoods for all within the abundance of the natural resources you have given us. Let us put foremost the needs of the poor and the oppressed, in line with your commands, and as we strive for a better world, let us treat each other with compassion, not contempt, seeking to understand different perspectives.

Lord of all redemption and restoration, you have put within our hearts and within your world an enormous capacity for regeneration. As we take joy in your creation, help us celebrate every circumstance where barrenness has been turned to flourishing and destruction to renewal. Show us where we can participate in the quest for your Kingdom on earth, that we may share in your promise that you will make all things new. Lord, we commit anew into your hands all of our lives, and all of creation.

Amen

**Intercessions for:**

Caversham Park United Reformed Church and all our mission and work.

The Provincial Chapter of TSSF next week and my appointment as Provincial Treasurer.

Earthquake victims.

Peace in Ukraine and elsewhere.

The resolution of industrial disputes particularly in the Health Service.

The life of our community and this school.  
All who are ill or in need, particularly any who are named.

### **Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:  
**Our Father in heaven, ...**

### **Offering**

This week we have two offering bowls. One is for the usual Church collection for our funds, including all the weekly envelopes. The other is for the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal for Turkey and Syria, and the money in it will be sent to them. If you would like to donate to the appeal online, when you will have the chance to gift-aid it, please do so. We will also consider in our meeting later whether to make a donation from Church funds.

Lord, we know that you love us and all that you have made, and we want to respond with love for you and our neighbours. We offer you these gifts, to be used for the work of your Church in these place, and these, to be used to relieve the needs of people who are suffering. Grant that they may all be used well in the name of your Kingdom, through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **Notices**

**Hymn**            He's got the whole world in his hands

### **Blessing**

May our loving God, who created the world and all that is in it, Inspire us to delight in our beautiful home, And to live in wonder, peace and joy. May our living God keep our hearts turned to loving our neighbour and to respecting the creation we share.

May our merciful God help us to live this week in goodness and hope, And fill us with God's peace.

**Amen**