

Service for Caversham Park URC on Sunday 11 June 2023

1st after Trinity, proper 5, year A; or Saint Barnabas

Preparing to hear God's Word

Welcome to all present and those online.

Lighting of candles

Let us worship God.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

This is the day that the Lord has made.

We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Some words from Psalm 112:

Alleluia!

Blessed are those who fear the Lord
and have great delight in his commandments.

Their descendants will be mighty in the land,
a generation of the faithful that will be blest.

Hymn

All people that on earth do dwell

MP20

Prayers of Approach, Adoration and Confession

O God,

we have come together to turn to you
as your people have gathered before.

With Christians over the centuries and across the world,
with all your people of all places and times,
we have come.

We bring with us everything we are,
all our gifts and talents,
all that we do well and for good.
We bring our weakness and our sorrow
and every way in which we fail.

We come in the hope and expectation
that we shall find you here in this company of people,

as the scriptures are read and interpreted
and as the music and the words touch our spirits.

We pray that as we learn to follow Jesus, your Son,
we may be saved from all that harms us,
that we may become the people you made us to be
and that we may find strength to do good in the world
so that your will may be done.

God the Creator, we praise you.
God in Christ, we turn to you.
God the Comforter, we call upon you.

Blessed be God, forever.

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.

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

O God,
your heart is full of mercy.
May we hear and trust your words to each of us:
'Your sins are forgiven.'
May we forgive each other
and forgive ourselves.

Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

Hearing God's Word

Theme Introduction

Today is the first Sunday after Trinity. But it is also the feast day of Saint Barnabas, the patron saint of our neighbours up the hill in Emmer Green. So we will be finding out what kind of person he was, and how we might take him as an example for our lives.

Collect for the Day

Bountiful God, giver of all gifts,
who poured your Spirit on your servant Barnabas
and gave him grace to encourage others;
help us, by his example,
to be generous in our judgements
and unselfish in your service;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Reading from Scripture Acts 11:19-30 **Sarah Viney**

Song O when the saints go marching in (5 verses)

Reading from Scripture Galatians 2:1-10 **Paula Andrews**

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God, Maker and Lover of all,
we know that your way is not always easy;
that peace is not given lightly,
that sometimes justice comes only through struggle.

We pray for the places in your world
where we long to see justice
and dream of peace.

We remember especially the peoples of Ukraine,
most of all those in the region of Cherson,
where conflicts seem so long-standing and complex
that we cannot imagine resolution;
and we pray for wisdom and reconciliation
leading to an outcome that is just and lasting.

We remember communities divided by poverty and racism,
especially many of our own cities,
where the gaps between privilege and powerlessness
seem to grow ever wider;
and we pray for justice and healing.

We remember your church,
sometimes fragmented and confused,
where in spite of division,
your people seek to live out the Gospel;
and we pray for joy and a new sense of the Spirit's power.

Especially we pray for our neighbours at Saint Barnabas, Emmer Green,
for Kevin Lovell and all who go there,
for developing co-operation with them in your work,
and we ask that we might follow the example of Barnabas
in encouragement, in reconciliation and in spreading your Good News.

We remember our friends, neighbours and ourselves,
especially [those we have lit candles for, and]
those we now name out loud or in our hearts.
in those areas of our lives where we struggle to be true to what we have
learned of you; and we pray for faithfulness and courage.

God, Maker and Lover of us all
who summons us in Jesus to the way of the cross,
and empowers us to live by your Spirit,
hear our prayer.

Amen.

The Offering

Eternal God
we come with these gifts
to offer our sacrifice of praise
and the service of our lives;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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

Hymn

Forth in Thy Name, O Lord, I go

MP159

The Blessing

May the God whose longing is for justice
and whose passion is for the freedom of all
strengthen us to work for all that makes for peace;
and the blessing of the living God,
Creator, Redeemer and Spirit
be with us all, now and always.

Amen.