

## Service for Caversham Park URC: Sunday 24 September 2023

### Trinity 16, proper 20, year A

Welcome, lighting of candles and Call to Worship

This is the day that the Lord has made.

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Some words from Psalm 145:

I will extol you, my God and King, and bless your name forever and ever.

Every day I will bless you, and praise your name forever and ever.

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.

Hymn / Song

**Praise to the Holiest**

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 our selves.  
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.

#### 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 we shall be thinking about how we react when other people receive the love and mercy of God. Do we rejoice with them in the chance of the new beginning, which we have also received? Or do we become jealous of them, or think that they are unworthy of the grace given to them? Do we feel that we are more entitled to God's love than other people are?

#### Prayer for Grace or Collect for the Day (4)

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers  
of your people who call upon you;  
and grant that they may both perceive and know  
what things they ought to do,  
and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them;  
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    **Jonah 3.10 – 4.11**

Psalm or Hymn or Song    **Amazing Grace**

Reading from Scripture    **Matthew 20.1-16**

Hymn or Song    **O Lord, all the world belongs to you**

Sermon or other Exposition of the Word

## **Responding to God's Word**

Hymn or Song    **Christ's is the world**

An Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen.**

*cf Ephesians 3*

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession (5)

After each section we will sing **O Lord, hear my prayer.**

For the Church here and everywhere, that we may grow in faith and numbers.  
For all its leaders.  
For all the people who have not yet learned to love you.  
O Lord, hear our prayer.

**O Lord, hear my prayer...**

For peace and justice to be established in all the world.  
For Ukraine, Yemen, Sudan, Armenia and Azerbaijan, Manipur, and every place of conflict.  
For proper love and care for the world that we have been given, that we may stop all the things that injure it, and help it to heal.  
For all who suffer poverty.

For all who need to seek refuge from oppression and discrimination.  
For wise and honest government in every place, and for those who govern us.  
O Lord, hear our prayer.

**O Lord, hear my prayer...**

For all to whom we are bound by ties of family or friendship.  
That we may share God's love with all around us.  
For all the people of Caversham Park, and the children, staff, parents and governors of this school.  
For Audrey as she celebrates her birthday.  
O Lord, hear our prayer.

**O Lord, hear my prayer...**

For all who are sick, suffering or in difficulty, particularly for Janikka, for Margaret and for others known to us.  
O Lord, hear our prayer.

**O Lord, hear my prayer...**

For all who have died, that we may share with them in the eternal joy of your presence.  
O Lord, hear our prayer.

**O Lord, hear my prayer...**

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**The Offering**

Father, we thank you for all your gifts to us.  
We acknowledge that you have given them so that they may be used in your service and shared with all who have need of them.  
Accept this money that we offer, and the time, prayer and work that we do, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Before we end our service, I would like to remind you all that there will be a Church Meeting immediately afterwards, followed by our Bring and Share lunch. I expect any notices can be given during the meeting.

Hymn or Song                      **Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go**

The Blessing (7)