

CAVERSHAM PARK
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Holy Communion Service order
(Sunday 5th November 2023)
Trinity 22 (All Saints) - Year A

**Trinity Sunday service with Holy Communion
at Caversham Park URC (Forth Order)**

Opening Hymn: This Is The Day

(On Screen)

Let us worship God.

This is the day which the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord;
for God's love endures for ever.

Our service today looks at stories from the Bible that teach us about the harvest and our thanksgiving.

Let us pray - Loving God - meet us here and make your word live in us. Remind us, O Lord, of the cloud of witnesses that surround us and help us to follow their example. Help us to lay aside our every weight, and the sin that clings so closely, and runs with perseverance the race that is set before us. Make us, like all the saints before us - a people who are eager to share your love with those who are far off and those who are near. Guide us, we pray, by the power of your Holy Spirit as we worship and serve you - both in this hour and in all the hours to come. We ask it in the name of Christ Jesus - our brother and our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn 2 – Seek Ye First The Kingdom of God

The God to whom we make our confession is the God who loved us so much that God took on mortality, choosing to limit the divine, in order to understand us and be with us. Trusting in that love, let us make our confession, first in silent prayer.

Silence

On screen

We confess, Merciful God, that our lives are burdened by the weight of our sinfulness. We are overwhelmed by the things that we cannot accept and by the expectations that others have for us. We have hurt others by what we have said and not said. We have wounded our sisters and brothers with deeds done and left undone. At times, we have been careless, thoughtless and unkind. We are bold to ask you to lift the burdens of our worry and guilt from our shoulders. Love us and forgive us as we stand in your presence. Amen

We are sisters and brothers in Christ, adopted children of the most High God. Our salvation was purchased by the blood of Jesus our Brother on the Cross. In his name, we have forgiveness and reconciliation with God. We are cleansed and purified by the faith that we have in Christ. **Amen.**

On screen

Thanks be to God

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

**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**

Do you know what a saint is?

A saint is a person who believes in Jesus and follows him each day. As the rest of you are looking in the box, I would like to ask you to name some other saints you know.

On All Saints Day we remember all the saints - and pray to God in thanksgiving about them and for them. Traditionally special remembrance is paid to the famous and not so famous martyrs of times long past and to those who have died in the past year. Each life offered up in remembrance calls to mind qualities of life worth imitating as well as some worth avoiding. Overall - it is a time in which we recall how we were and how we still are connected to one another in and through the love of God.

In a moment we will pray for the Saints - and when we reach the appropriate point to include others - I would like you to name names of those who are special to you and whom you wish to thank God for and to remember in your prayers at this time.

**** PRAYING FOR THE SAINTS ****

God of the ages: We praise you for all your servants who have done justice, loved mercy and walked humbly with you. We praise you O God for all apostles and martyrs and saints of every time and place, who in life and death have witnessed to your truth and love.

We praise you, O God for all those who answered your call to preach the Good News of the Gospel and to administer your Sacraments of grace and love, and for those who devoted their lives to teaching your Word and sharing the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures with others whether it be at home or in foreign lands.

We praise you, O God for those who showed compassion to the least, feeding the hungry and clothing the naked, welcoming the stranger and offering mercy and forgiveness to those who have gone astray.

We praise you, O God for those who were willing to lose their lives in service to others, caring for the sick, comforting the dying, visiting the lonely, consoling those in grief,

We praise you, O God, and we especially honour the memory of those individuals of our church here in Caversham Park who have lived among us and shared their faith in personal ways, who have finished the race and now reign on high with you. In addition, O God, we honour the memory of those who have graced our lives at other times and in other ways - those whose names we lift up before you in our hearts now. In particular, we lift up before you with gratitude and thanksgiving: names etc etc.

Hear our prayers, O God, for others we name before you both in our hearts and aloud....

For all the saints from whom their labours rest, we praise you, O God. We praise you and we thank you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

HYMN: - For All The Saints

God of glory, touch our lips with the fire of your Spirit, that we with all creation may rejoice to sing your praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Reading 1 - Joshua 3:7-17 (NRSV)

Reading 2 – I Thessalonians 2:9-13 (NRSV)

Hymn 3 – Faith Of Our Fathers.

Gospel – Matthew 23:1-12 (NRSV)

Sermon – Crossing Into The Promised Land

Hymn 4 - How Firm A Foundation

Intercessions

Gracious words

Hear the gracious words of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28

I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. *John 6:35*

Anyone who comes to me, I will never drive away. *John 5:37*

The Peace

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Peace be with you.

Hymn 5 – Amazing Grace**The Narrative of the Institution of the Lord's Supper**

Hear the narrative of the institution of the Lord's Supper as it was recorded by the apostle Paul.

I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. *1 Corinthians 11:23-26*

The Taking of the Bread and wine

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and following his example, we take this bread and this cup, and give thanks to God.

The Thanksgiving (*On Screen*)

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

With joy we give you thanks and praise, Almighty God, Source of all life and love, that we live in your world, that you are always creating and sustaining it by your power, and that you have so made us that we can know and love you, trust and serve you. We give you thanks that you loved the world so much that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him may not die but have eternal life.

We praise you that he is the light of the world through whom we are brought out of darkness into light, and that by him your glory has been revealed to the nations.

Therefore with all the company of heaven, and with all your people, of all places and times, we proclaim your greatness and sing your praise.

(*On Screen*)

Holy, holy, holy Lord

God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy Lord God, by what we do herein remembrance of Christ we celebrate his perfect sacrifice on the Cross and his glorious resurrection and ascension; we declare that he is Lord of all; and we prepare for his coming in his kingdom. We pray that through your Holy Spirit this bread may be for us the body of Christ and this wine the blood of Christ. Accept our sacrifice of praise; and as we eat and drink at his command unite us to Christ as one body in him, and give us strength to serve you in the world. And to you, one holy and eternal God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we give praise and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer *(On Screen)*

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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed
took bread and when he had given thanks,
he broke it and said, 'This is my body which is for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

In the same way also the cup saying
'This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.'

If the narrative of the institution has been used earlier in the service, as the bread is broken the minister may say:

The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.

And as the cup is raised the minister may say:

The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.

Distribution of the Bread and Wine then follows with the following hymn:

Hymn 6 – Broken for you

The Acclamation *(On Screen)*

Let us praise the Lord.

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.
Blessing and honour and glory
and power be to our God for ever and ever. Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

(On Screen)

Most gracious God, we praise you for what you have given and for what you have promised us here. You have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. You have fed us with the bread of life, and renewed us for your service.

Now we give ourselves to you; and we ask that our daily living may be part of the life of your kingdom, and that our love may be your love reaching out into the life of the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Notices

Offerings

Loving God, we thank you for the grace that you pour out upon us and for the faith that you call us to live each day. We praise you for the gifts you give us - the land you grant to us, the manna by which you feed us. Receive, O Lord, these our tithes and offerings, held before you with grateful hearts in obedience to your holy command. Receive them - and all our intentions and actions – making them perfectly thine through the faithfulness of Christ Jesus our Saviour and our Lord. Amen

Dismissal and Blessing:

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.

Go in peace; love and care for one another in Christ's name, and may the presence of God, the one who opens before us a new heaven, and a new earth, bless you and yours, may he guide you and your family to the promised land and strengthen you and all the saints to enter therein this both now and forevermore. **Amen.**

Hymn 7 – Here the call of the Kingdom