

Caversham Park Morning Service
Sunday, 31 December 2023

Welcome

Introduction

"There are two ways of spreading light; to be a candle, or the mirror that reflects it."

Lord God, as we light this candle to remind us of your hope, peace, joy, and love help us to witness to the Light of the World, your son Jesus who came as a babe at Bethlehem and will come again in glory. Grant that we may be candles and mirrors of your light to a dark and waiting world. Come, Lord Jesus!

Lighting the Candle: (Isaiah 9:2, 6)

We light this candle Lord to remind us of the hope, peace, joy, and love you gave us in the birth of our Saviour. As we look forward to celebrating his Coming among us as a Babe at Bethlehem and watch for his Coming again may your loving, guiding presence be with us. Make us to rejoice in the hope of our salvation. O come, O come, Emmanuel!

In joyful expectation we pray to you our Saviour and Redeemer. Blessed are you, O Lord our God! We bring you our praise and thanksgiving.

All: You have opened the eyes of our hearts so that we may see. We are no longer bound by our blindness to live with no hope. You have invited us to be caught up in your vision of a new order of things. With Mary, we can say, "My soul magnifies the Lord...."

Because Jesus took on our flesh, life itself is filled with new meaning and dignity. "The word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory...full of grace and truth."

All: "From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace." Thank you, Lord.

We are in your debt Lord. You are faithful when we are not. "Your faithfulness endures to all generations." Your promises are sure and your love is steadfast.

All: We ask you Lord to teach us to love others as you have loved us. Lord hear our prayer.

Thank you Lord for the blessings of home and family and friends. In and through them we learn the joy of loving and being loved.

All: We praise you God Most High for these rich blessings.

Lord we celebrate your coming to us in Jesus your Son. Prepare us for that joyful day when he will come again. In the meantime, accept our imperfect offerings - our broken selves - as we struggle to be faithful, as we yearn for your coming when all will be made new.

ALL: Glory and Honour and Praise and Thanksgiving be unto you O Lord Most High. Come to us soon, Emmanuel. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

Hymn Let all the world in every corner sing

Lighting the Candle (Peace candle and those of the people)

Lord God, thank You for working in the world and in our lives.

We bring to You those we would like to remember to You.

The Collect

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;

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.

All Amen

Invitation to Confession

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.

All Father, we have sinned against heaven and against you.

We are not worthy to be called your children.

We turn to you again.

Have mercy on us, bring us back to yourself

as those who once were dead but now have life through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

May the Father forgive us

by the death of his Son

and strengthen us

to live in the power of the Spirit

all our days.

All Amen

Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 148

Hymn All creatures of our God and King

1st Reading - Isaiah 61.1, 8-11; 62.1-3

Hymn O for a thousand tongues to sing

2nd Reading - Galatians 4. 4-7

Hymn Father God I wonder (sung 2x)

Talk

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God:

**All 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.

Hymn Abba Father (sung 3x)

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Notices

The Blessing

Let us bless each other by saying the Grace to each other, and also to those people who are not physically here with us, but are sharing in our worship.

**All The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all, ever more.
Amen**

Hymn My Jesus, my Saviour (sung 2x)