

Service for Caversham Park URC, Sunday 12 May 2024: Easter 7, Year B

Preparing to hear God's Word

Call to Worship

Welcome to all

Lighting of candles

Almighty God, your Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence. Give us new hearts and constant wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn O for a heart to praise my God

Prayers of Approach, Adoration and Confession

Intimate God, we praise you because you know each one of us; the worries that nag us, the achievements we are proud of, the hopes and expectations that we hold, half-recognised, in our hearts.

We praise you for what we know of you; the ways in which you have welcomed and met us, your quiet, constant, presence in our lives.

And we praise you for what we do not yet know; the mysteries of your creation, the questions that baffle us, the wonders of discovery awaiting us.

Unknown God, may we be open to meet with you in unexpected ways; discerning your presence in what is strange to us, and seeing the familiar with newly-opened eyes. **Amen.**

Confession

Jesus is our high priest, tempted like us, yet without sin. He lives for ever in heaven to intercede for us. Through him we approach the throne of grace with confidence, and confess our sins.

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

An Affirmation of Faith – The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The response to our prayers is:

Lord, do not leave us comfortless,
but strengthen us by your Spirit.

Prayers for the Church, the world, our community and ourselves.

Ending

with:

As we wait in silence,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we listen to your word,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we worship you in majesty,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we long for your refreshing,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we long for your renewing,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we long for your equipping,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

As we long for your empowering,
make us ready for your coming Spirit.

Risen and ascended Lord,
we pray in your holy Name. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

The Offering

extempore

Hymn The head that once was crowned with thorns

The Blessing

Christ our King make us faithful and strong to do his will, that we may reign with him in glory; And we say the Grace together:

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore.

Amen.