

Service for Caversham Park URC
7th Sunday after Trinity, Year B, Proper 10

Preparing to hear God's Word

Call to Worship

Let us worship God.
In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

O God, your loving kindness is better than life itself;
our lips shall give you praise.

So we will bless you as long as we live
and lift up our hands in your name.

Hymn - Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Prayers of Approach, Adoration and Confession

All-holy God, you call us together to be your holy people, and so we join to give you praise for the joy of our creation; for our redemption in Christ; for the empowerment of your Spirit. Gracious God, fill our hearts with your love and our lives with your glory as we come before you in worship and prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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.**

God of love and mercy, we come before you knowing that we are in need of forgiveness. We have sinned against you in our speaking and in our silence; in our thinking and in our thoughtlessness; in our actions and in our inaction.

We have sinned against you, in not loving you with our whole heart and soul and strength; in not loving our sisters and brothers in Christ. Grant us, O Lord, your forgiveness, restore us in the image of your Son, and lead us along the way to your kingdom, to the glory of your name. **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, the seventh Sunday after Trinity, our readings invite us to think of God's plan for humanity – to love us, to send his Son to save us, to rescue us from our sinfulness.

We are called to know this plan and to join in fulfilling it.

Prayer for Grace or Collect for the Day

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; 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.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

Reading from Scripture - Ephesians 1:3-14

Hymn - Fill your hearts with joy and gladness (version of Psalms 85:8-13)

Reading from Scripture - Mark 6.14-29

Hymn - Nada te turbe

Sermon.....

Responding to God's Word

Hymn - Be still, for the presence of the Lord

An Affirmation of Faith

Here are words you may trust. Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead:

he is our salvation, our eternal glory.

If we die with him, we shall live with him; **if we endure, we shall reign with him.**

If we deny him, he will deny us; **if we are faithless, he keeps faith.**

For he has broken the power of death **and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.** cf 2 Timothy 2.11-13

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 Gaza, the West Bank and Israel of Ukraine and Russia and of many other places where conflicts seem so long-standing and complex that we cannot imagine resolution; and we pray for wisdom and reconciliation....

We remember those in authority particularly in this country, in the United States, and in France and we pray that you will guide them in the ways of your Kingdom and inspire them with your Spirit. We remember those engaged in sporting contests and ask for a spirit of fair play and generosity that joy may be shared by winners and losers alike.

We remember communities divided by poverty and racism, especially in South Africa and in deprived areas of this country 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. We remember our friends, neighbours and ourselves, especially - 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 (6)

Loving God, we bring these our gifts, in thanksgiving for all that you have given us; asking that we may be servants of others and witnesses to your love. In the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Notices

Hymn - Stand up, stand up for Jesus

The Blessing

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. *Romans 15:13*
Amen.

Let us bless one another with the Grace:

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