

Service for Caversham Park URC on Sunday 13 October 2024
20th Sunday after Trinity, year B, proper 23

Call to Worship

Peace and joy to you all!

Lighting of candles and welcome

Psa 90:12 So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.

Psa 90:13 Turn, O LORD! How long? Have compassion on your servants!

Psa 90:14 Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Hymn / Song

Ye servants of God, your master proclaim (784)

Prayers of Approach, Adoration and Confession (2)

Father, we have come here today, not just to meet each other, but to spend time with you, to experience your love and share it. We give you thanks that you have set us in a world of beauty and plenty, where we have all we need to live. We give you thanks that we live among family and friends, people whom we love and who love us. Above all, we thank you for the gift of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our teacher and example, to die upon the Cross and save us from our sins, and to rise again and be exalted to your right hand in glory, and for your Holy Spirit who guides and strengthens us. Blessed be God for ever!

Amen.

Let us confess our sins to God.

Father, we confess to you that we fall short of our own standards, let alone yours. Instead of loving you, we put our trust in money and other things, and treat them as more important than you. We do not thank you enough, or tell people your good news. Instead of loving our neighbours, we forget about the needs, and fail to share our good fortune with them. Father, do not hold these sins against us, but forgive them, and help us to change, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (3)

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. Jesus says to us: Your sins are forgiven.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

Theme Introduction

The topic of today's service is the price of discipleship. What must we do to inherit eternal life? And are we prepared to do it with our whole heart?

Prayer for Grace or Collect for the Day (4)

God, the giver of life, whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church: by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ and make us eager to do your will, that we may share with the whole creation the joys of eternal life; 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 Amos 5.6-7,10-15 *Linda*

Psalm or Hymn or Song And can it be (33)

Mark 10.17-31 *Stephen*

Hymn or Song Give thanks with a grateful heart (170)

Sermon

Hymn or Song Take my life, and let it be (624)

An Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God

Christ Jesus was in the form of God, Yet he laid no claim to equality with God, But made himself nothing, assuming the form of a slave.

Bearing the human likeness. Sharing the human lot, He humbled himself, and was obedient, Even to the point of death. Death on a cross!

Therefore God raised him to the heights and bestowed on him the name above all names,

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow-In heaven, on earth and in the depths-

And every tongue acclaim "Jesus Christ is Lord", To the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession (5)

For the universal Church in ever land. For the United Reformed Church, and for all Churches in this area. For this Church, and all who help to run it in any way, and for our AGM following this service.

For your world, suffering from the sin and disobedience of your people. For peace and justice everywhere. For peace in the Middle East, that the current warfare and violence may be ended, that the leaders of all nations and groups may have wisdom to cease the destruction and repair the damage they have done to people and their homes and fields and towns, that they may respect and support those sent by the United Nations to keep the peace, that they may give up the desire to possess what others have, and look for ways of sharing the land and its fruits fairly, that they may work for true reconciliation and peace.

For the same blessings of peace to be shared wherever there is war and conflict.

For our own Government, Parliament and local representatives, and for the forthcoming presidential election in the United States, that your Spirit may guide all in authority.

For ourselves and our families, friends and neighbours, that we may share generously all that you have given us, so that there may no longer be poor people among us or anywhere in the world.

For all who are sick or suffering, especially ...

For all who have died.

Lord's Prayer

The Offering (6)

Lord, your Son recommended the rich young man to sell all he had, to give to the poor, and to follow him. We are not ready to do all of that, but we want to obey him in spirit. So today we offer you a small part of what we have. We pray that it may be used for the good of your people and for the growth of your Kingdom. And we also pray that you will show us how we can give more of our time and our money to you and to your people. We ask it in the name of the same Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Hymn or Song O Lord, all the world belongs to you (Rejoice & Sing 90)

Notices

The Blessing (7)

The Lord bless us and watch over us; the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us; the Lord look kindly on us and give us peace. My sisters, my brothers, may the Lord bless us.

Amen.