

Service for Caversham Park URC on Sunday 13 April 2025

Palm Sunday, year C

Preparing to hear God's Word

Lighting of candles

Call to Worship

Zechariah 9:9 NRSVA

(9) Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

**We adore you, most holy Lord Jesus Christ,
here and in all your churches throughout the world,
and we bless you, because by your holy Cross
you have redeemed the world. Amen.**

Today on Palm Sunday, we remember Jesus entering Jerusalem, and how the people greeted him with rejoicing. We remember also that he came to Jerusalem to be crucified for our sake, as the one sinless person who bore all our sins.

Lord Jesus Christ,
we pray that by these palms we may proclaim you as our humble King,
and welcome you into our hearts and our lives.
Through them, strengthen us to take up your cross and follow you
wherever you need us to go.
We ask this for your own name's sake.
Amen.

Palms and flags are distributed.

Please stand if you can, and follow me around the hall, waving our palms and banners to show our joy that Jesus is here, as we sing our first hymn..

Hymn 9 All glory, laud and honour

Prayers of Approach, Adoration and Confession

**Lord, we welcome you to your own place,
where we adore you as our King.
We share joyfully in your triumph.
We thank you because you have come to save us.
Strengthen us to share with you
In the pain and sacrifice of Good Friday
so that we may also share in your risen life.
Amen.**

God shows his love for us
in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Let us then show our love for him
by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Lord, we do not get things right.
We do not proclaim you as we should.
We draw back from following you
when the road becomes difficult and painful.
When they come to persecute you, we run away.
Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us these and all our sins.
Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Jesus died on the cross to save us.
He announces to you and to me:
Your sins are forgiven.
Amen. Thanks be to God.

Hearing God's Word

Collect for the Day

Almighty and everlasting God,
who in your tender love towards the human race
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to take upon him our flesh
and to suffer death upon the cross:
grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility,
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
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.

Reading from Scripture

Luke 19.28-40

Hymn 790 You are the King of glory

Reading from Scripture

Luke 23.1-49

Hymn 478 My song is love unknown

Sermon

Responding to God's Word

Hymn 563 Praise to the holiest in the height

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Let us bring to the Father our prayers of intercession
through Christ who gave himself for the life of the world.

For forgiveness for the many times we have denied Jesus,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For grace to seek out those habits of sin which mean
spiritual death,
and by prayer and self-discipline to overcome them,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Christian people,
that through the suffering of disunity
there may grow a rich union in Christ,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who make laws, interpret them, and administer them,
that our common life may be ordered in justice and mercy,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who still make Jerusalem and the Holy Land a battleground,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who have the courage and honesty to work openly for
justice and peace,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those in the darkness and agony of isolation,
that they may find support and encouragement,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who, weighed down with hardship, failure, or sorrow,
feel that God is far from them,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who are tempted to give up the way of the cross,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we, with those who have died in faith,
may find mercy in the day of Christ,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

The Lord's Prayer

The Offering

Father, as you offered your Son for us on the Cross,
so we offer you this money,
as a sign that we offer ourselves to you.
May this money, and ourselves, be used to your praise and glory.
for the good of your Church and the work of your Kingdom.
Amen.

Notices including Maundy Thursday meeting and Good Friday walk

Hymn 580 Ride on, ride on in majesty

The Blessing

May Christ crucified draw us to himself,
to find in him a sure ground for faith,
a firm support for hope,
and the assurance of sins forgiven.

Let us bless one another with the Grace:

**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 for ever.
Amen.**