

CAVERSHAM PARK
United Reformed Church

Holy Communion Service order
(Sunday 4th May 2025)
Third Sunday of Easter - Year C

Holy Communion at Caversham Park (Fourth Order)

Opening Hymn: Father, Hear the Prayer We Offer

Let us worship God.

This is the day which the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord;
for God's love endures for ever.

Our service today looks at how God asks us to step out into this world by going out and spreading the word..

Hymn 2 - This Is The Day

Let us pray:

Gracious God, girded with gladness, we come rejoicing before you. You are the God of salvation. We give you praise. When we cry for help you hear us; from out of the pit you rescue us. You have turned our mourning into dancing, you have loosed our sackcloths and adorned us with favour. Today, O Lord, we raise our voices in faithful thanksgiving, in prayer, and in song. We ask that you would continue to grace us and that all we say and do in this place, and beyond it, give glory and honour to Your wondrous name. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to God and ask for forgiveness

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.**

We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Thanks be to God

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope; strengthen us also to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

Reading 1 – Acts 9:1-20 (NIV)

Reading 2 - Psalm 30 (NIV)

Hymn 3 - How Deep the Father's Love for Us

Gospel – John 21:1-19 (NIV)

Sermon – We Wait

Hymn 4 - Will You Come and Follow Me

Intercessions

Hear the gracious words of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.
Matthew 11:28

I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. *John 6:35*

Anyone who comes to me, I will never drive away. *John 5:37*

Presentation of the offerings

O God - you have poured out upon your people in this place the riches of your grace. Help us to share these riches – bless what we offer here today on these plates and within our hearts - may it all be worthy of us and of what you have done for us. We ask it in the name of Christ Jesus our brother and our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Peace be with you.

Hymn 5 - Morning Has Broken

Hear the narrative of the institution of the Lord's Supper as it was recorded by the apostle Paul.

I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. *1 Corinthians 11:23-26*

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and following his example, we take this bread and this cup, and give thanks to God.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

With joy we give you thanks and praise, Almighty God, Source of all life and love, that we live in your world, that you are always creating and sustaining it by your power, and that you have so made us that we can know and love you, trust and serve you. We give you thanks that you loved the world so much that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him may not die but have eternal life.

Therefore with all the company of heaven, and with all your people, of all places and times, we proclaim your greatness and sing your praise.

Holy, holy, holy Lord

God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy Lord God, by what we do herein remembrance of Christ we celebrate his perfect sacrifice on the Cross and his glorious resurrection and ascension; we declare that he is Lord of all; and we prepare for his coming in his kingdom. We pray that through your Holy Spirit this bread may be for us the body of Christ and this wine the blood of Christ. Accept our sacrifice of praise; and as we eat and drink at his command unite us to Christ as one body in him, and give us strength to serve you in the world. And to you, one holy and eternal God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we give praise and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**All Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.**

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed
took bread and when he had given thanks,
he broke it and said, 'This is my body which is for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

In the same way also the cup saying
'This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.'

If the narrative of the institution has been used earlier in the service, as the bread is broken the minister may say:

The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.

And as the cup is raised the minister may say:

The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.

Hymn 6 - Let Us Break Bread Together (Communion Hymn)

Let us praise the Lord.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Blessing and honour and glory

and power be to our God for ever and ever. Amen.

Let us pray.

Most gracious God, we praise you for what you have given and for what you have promised us here. You have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. You have fed us with the bread of life, and renewed us for your service.

Now we give ourselves to you; and we ask that our daily living may be part of the life of your kingdom, and that our love may be your love reaching out into the life of the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Notices

Blessing

In the power of the Holy Spirit, we now go forth into the world to fulfil our calling as the people of God, the body of Christ.

Go love and care for one another in the name of Christ Jesus and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sustainer, be with you now and abide in you forevermore

Amen

Hymn 7 - Colours of Day