

Service for Caversham Park URC on Sunday 10 August 2025

Preparing to hear God's Word

Call to Worship

(Mic 6:6) "With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

(Mic 6:7) Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of
oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

(Mic 6:8) He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Hymn

For the healing of the nations

R&S620

Prayers of Approach, Adoration and Confession

Father, we come before you in faith to thank and praise you. We thank you because we
have the good fortune to live at peace. We have no bombs falling on us. Nobody is denying
us food. We can live in our homes, and nobody is trying to drive us out. We can trust our
neighbours, mostly. We are free to do what you want us to do. We are free to proclaim
your love for all humanity. We can do all these things, because you sent your only Son, Jesus
Christ to show us the way to be, to teach us, to give himself up to death for our sake,
and to rise again showing your power over all that is evil. We thank you for the gift of your
Holy Spirit. We bless and praise you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Coventry Litany of Reconciliation

This prayer asks forgiveness particularly for the sins that cause violence, and the sins that
result from violence.

If you have been given a slip of paper, when it comes to your turn, please read the words
slowly and clearly, pause to give people time to think, and then we all say "Father, forgive".

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. So let us pray:

The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class

All ***Father, forgive***

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own

All ***Father, forgive***

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth

All ***Father, forgive***

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others

All ***Father, forgive***

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless and the refugee

All ***Father, forgive***

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children

All *Father, forgive*

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God

All *Father, forgive*

All *Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

Assurance of Pardon (3)

May Almighty God, who forgives all those who truly repent, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and bring us to eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Hearing God's Word

Theme Introduction

Today I want us to think about the issues of war and peace. We will hear what God asks of us, and we will consider why and how too often people do not obey his will. And we will ask ourselves: what can we do about it?

Prayer for Grace or Collect for the Day

Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all: govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Reading from Scripture Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm 122

Reading(s) from Scripture Revelation 3:14-16
Matthew 5:1-12

Hymn O God of earth and altar R&S346

Sermon or other Exposition of the Word

Responding to God's Word

Hymn Make me a channel of your peace R&S629

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 (5)

Caversham Park Church, Glyn Millington and all who lead us That the Church may boldly proclaim the message of peace, justice and love

For all the leaders of the nations and of groups of people, and especially for those who plan or commit aggression, genocide, and other breaches of international law, that they may hear your word, repent of their crimes, and make peace, or else lose their power. For all who are truly seeking to make peace with justice, that they may have every possible success and the courage to continue.

For the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and for every institution established to promote peace and international co-operation. For the people of Gaza suffering from the denial of food, water, shelter, medical help, and safety, that the state of Israel may allow these without restrictions.

For the people of the West Bank, that they may no longer suffer attacks and the stealing of their land. For the people of Israel, that hostages may be freed. For the people of Ukraine, that they may no longer suffer attacks by drones and rockets and the invasion of their land. For the peoples in Sudan, Yemen, Iran, Myanmar, Cambodia, Thailand, North and South Korea, Taiwan, India, Pakistan and every other place in the world, that they may be freed from the threat of war.

For all those suffering under authoritarian or oppressive governments, that they may be free to express their views and live their lives peacefully, and to choose those who will rule them. For all who need to flee from their homes, that they may receive a place of safety and a warm and generous welcome.

For all who are blamed for the wrongful deeds of others. For the environment, that we may care for it lovingly, protect it from harm, and seek to undo the damage that has already taken place.

For ourselves and our community, that we may live together in mutual help and love. For every family, that it may be bound together in love. For our friends who are on holiday. For those who are suffering from sickness of body, mind or spirit.

For those who have died, that we may give thanks for their good examples, and may in due time share with them in all the good things that you have in store for us.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

Our Father in heaven ...

A Service of the Word – Sunday 10 August 2025

The Offering (6)

Father, we thank you for the peace and prosperity that we enjoy. Accept these gifts as a token of our thanks, and use them in the service of your Church and your people.

Hymn

God is working his purpose out R&S573

The Blessing (7)

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you **and also with you.**