

**Caversham Park Morning Service
Sunday, 31 August 2025**

Lighting the Peace Candle

Call to Worship – Psalm 81 – Responsorial

1 Sing for joy to God our strength; shout aloud to the God of Jacob!

2 Begin the music, strike the tambourine, play the melodious harp and lyre.

3 Sound the ram's horn at the New Moon, and when the moon is full, on the day of our Feast;

4 this is a decree for Israel, an ordinance of the God of Jacob.

5 When God went out against Egypt, he established it as a statute for Joseph.

I heard an unknown voice say:

6 'I removed the burden from their shoulders; their hands were set free from the basket.

7 In your distress you called and I rescued you, I answered you out of a thundercloud; I tested you at the waters of Meribah.

8 Hear me, my people, and I will warn you – if you would only listen to me, Israel!

9 You shall have no foreign god among you; you shall not worship any god other than me.

10 I am the Lord your God, who brought you up out of Egypt. Open wide your mouth and I will fill it.

11 'But my people would not listen to me; Israel would not submit to me.

12 So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts to follow their own devices.

13 'If my people would only listen to me, if Israel would only follow my ways,

14 how quickly I would subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes!

15 Those who hate the Lord would cringe before him, and their punishment would last for ever.

16 But you would be fed with the finest of wheat; with honey from the rock I would satisfy you.'

Hymn 1 O for a thousand tongues MP 496

Introduction – Hand out sheets of paper for writing individual prayers

Lighting the Candles

In lighting these candles we ask you to remember the situations we bring to you.

Prayer of Approach Let us pray:

Great God of gathering,
we have come before you,
each with our personal hope and dreams, experience and doubts, loves and fears.
We cannot always come together physically,
but, as our spirits reach out to you
we are joined in your great love.
We have not come as a perfect people,
but as a people who are willing to be changed by being in your presence.
We come to ask for your forgiveness and grace,
as we continue to live our lives as your people. Amen

Hymn 2 Amazing Grace MP 31 – (on guitar)

Invitation to Confession

The gospel calls us to turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.
As we offer ourselves to him in penitence and faith,
we renew our confidence and trust in his mercy.

All God of mercy,
we acknowledge that we are all sinners.
We turn from the wrong that we have thought and said and done,
and are mindful of all that we have failed to do.
For the sake of Jesus, who died for us, forgive us for all that is past,
and help us to live each day in the light of Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

May the almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins,
Grant us time for amendment of our lives, and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

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

1st Reading - Jeremiah 2. 4-13

Hymn 3 Be Thou my vision MP 51

2nd Reading - Luke 14. 1, 7-14

Talk

Hymn 4 And can it be MP 33

Prayer Let us pray:

You are with us, O God, to knit us together in mutual love and caring.
You pour out abundant gifts that enrich our existence and challenge us to give our best.
Let the words of our mouths proclaim the dawn of redemption that Christ inaugurates.
Let the actions that arise from our hearts and minds spread abroad the good news of his reconciling love.
Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of Him who is the Saviour of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ;
and with that love burning, make this world of ours a world of Hope and Promise - for all peoples, and for all times.
All these things we ask and pray to you about in the name of Christ Jesus - who gives to us the light we need to walk into each day as your holy and beloved people. Amen

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God:

All 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 Intercession – congregation write & bring forward their prayers

Hymn 5 When I survey the wondrous cross MP 1126

Praying over the Collection (music played as the collection brought forward)

Receive these our gifts of money; talents and time in response to the life you give to us through the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

May we not withhold anything that brings hope to others
and may we share all we have to the benefit of all. **Amen**

Notices

Dismissal – The Blessing

Let us bless each other by saying the Grace to each other, and also to those people who are not physically here with us, but are sharing in our worship.

**All The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 and the love of God,
 and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
 be with us all, ever more. Amen**

Hymn 6 I the Lord of sea and sky MP 857