

# **Caversham Park**

## **Draft order of service - 17<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

### **Call to worship**

**Hymn 1:** Let us Build a house (all are welcome). *(Taken from CG 4)*

Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

*All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:

*All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where love is found  
in water, wine and wheat:  
a banquet hall on holy ground  
where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
is revealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

*All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger:

*All are welcome, all are welcome,*

*all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

*All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*

**Prayers** – (approach and praise – but also giving thanks for the past life of the LEP and for the point we've reached today)

**Introduction to the service** (brief outline of it being a recognition of the church as a URC, membership and ordination of elders)

**Hymn 2:** Great is thy faithfulness (*Taken from R&S 96*)

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as Thou hast been thou for ever wilt be.

*Great is Thy faithfulness, great is Thy faithfulness,  
morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided,  
great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
join with all nature In manifold witness  
to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

*Great is Thy faithfulness, great is Thy faithfulness,  
morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided,  
great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

Pardon for sin And a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence To cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

*Great is Thy faithfulness, great is Thy faithfulness,*

*morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided,  
great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

**Reading 1:** Exodus 3: 1-12 (*Reader from CP*)

<sup>3</sup> One day, Moses was taking care of the sheep and goats of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian, and Moses decided to lead them across the desert to Sinai, the holy mountain.

<sup>2</sup> There an angel of the Lord appeared to him from a burning bush. Moses saw that the bush was on fire, but it was not burning up.

<sup>3</sup> “This is strange!” he said to himself. “I’ll go over and see why the bush isn’t burning up.”

<sup>4</sup> When the Lord saw Moses coming near, he called him by name from the bush, and Moses answered, “Here I am.”

<sup>5</sup> God replied, “Don’t come any closer. Take off your sandals—the ground where you are standing is holy. <sup>6</sup> I am the God who was worshiped by your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.” Moses was afraid to look at God, and so he hid his face.

<sup>7</sup> The Lord said: I have seen how my people are suffering as slaves in Egypt, and I have heard them beg for my help because of the way they are being mistreated. I feel sorry for them,

<sup>8</sup> and I have come down to rescue them from the Egyptians. I will bring my people out of Egypt into a country where there is a lot of good land, rich with milk and honey. I will give them the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live.

<sup>9</sup> My people have begged for my help, and I have seen how cruel the Egyptians are to them.

<sup>10</sup> Now go to the king! I am sending you to lead my people out of his country.

<sup>11</sup> But Moses said, “Who am I to go to the king and lead your people out of Egypt?”

<sup>12</sup> God replied, “I will be with you. And you will know that I am the one who sent you, when you worship me on this mountain after you have led my people out of Egypt.

**Reading 2:** Colossians 3:11-17 (*Reader from CP*)

<sup>11</sup> It doesn’t matter if you are a Greek or a Jew, or if you are circumcised or not. You may even be a barbarian or a Scythian, and you may be a slave or a free person. Yet Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.

<sup>12</sup> God loves you and has chosen you as his own special people. So be gentle, kind, humble, meek, and patient.

<sup>13</sup> Put up with each other, and forgive anyone who does you wrong, just as Christ has forgiven you.

<sup>14</sup> Love is more important than anything else. It is what ties everything completely together.

<sup>15</sup> Each one of you is part of the body of Christ, and you were chosen to live together in peace. So let the peace that comes from Christ control your thoughts. And be grateful.

<sup>16</sup> Let the message about Christ completely fill your lives, while you use all your wisdom to teach and instruct each other. With thankful hearts, sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

<sup>17</sup> Whatever you say or do should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, as you give thanks to God the Father because of him.

**Reading 3:** Acts 2: 42-47 (*Reader from CP*)

<sup>42</sup> They spent their time learning from the apostles, and they were like family to each other. They also broke bread<sup>[a]</sup> and prayed together.

<sup>43</sup> Everyone was amazed by the many miracles and wonders that the apostles worked.

<sup>44</sup> All the Lord's followers often met together, and they shared everything they had.

<sup>45</sup> They would sell their property and possessions and give the money to whoever was in need.

<sup>46</sup> Day after day they met together in the temple. They broke bread<sup>[b]</sup> together in different homes and shared their food happily and freely,

<sup>47</sup> while praising God. Everyone liked them, and each day the Lord added to their group others who were being saved.

**Sermon:** (*presented by Tony*)

**Hymn 3:** Moses I know you're the Man (*Taken from R&S 547*)

'Moses, I know you're the man',  
the Lord says.  
'You're going to work out my plan',  
the Lord says.  
'Lead all the Israelites out of slavery,

and I shall make them a wandering race  
called the people of God.'

*So every day we're on our way,  
for we're a travelling, wandering race;  
we're the people of God.*

'Don't get too set in your ways',  
the Lord says.  
'Each step is only a phase',  
the Lord says.  
'I'll go before you and I shall be a sign  
to guide my travelling, wandering race;  
you're the people of God.'

*So every day we're on our way,  
for we're a travelling, wandering race;  
we're the people of God.*

'No matter what you may do',  
the Lord says,  
'I shall be faithful and true',  
the Lord says.  
'My love will strengthen you as you go along,  
for you're my travelling wandering race;  
you're the people of God.'

*So every day we're on our way,  
for we're a travelling, wandering race;  
we're the people of God.*

'Look at the birds in the air,'  
the Lord says.  
'They fly unhampered by care',  
the Lord says.  
'You will move easier if you're travelling light,  
for you're a wandering, vagabond race,  
you're the people of God.'

*So every day we're on our way,  
for we're a travelling, wandering race;  
we're the people of God.*

'Foxes have places to go.'  
the Lord says,  
'but I've no home here below',  
the Lord says.  
'So if you want to be with me all your days,  
keep up the moving and travelling on,

you're the people of God.'

*So every day we're on our way,  
for we're a travelling, wandering race;  
we're the people of God.*

**Statement Concerning the Nature Faith and Order – (will need printing or projecting) – Ray to lead**

With the whole Christian Church, the United Reformed Church believes in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**The living God, the only God, ever to be praised.**

The life of faith to which we are called is the Spirit's gift continually received through the Word, the Sacraments and our Christian life together.

**We acknowledge the gift and answer the call, giving thanks for the means of grace.**

The highest authority for what we believe and do is God's Word in the Bible alive for his people today through the help of the Spirit.

**We respond to this Word, whose servants we are with all God's people through the years.**

We accept with thanksgiving to God the witness to the catholic faith in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds. We acknowledge the declarations made in our own tradition by Congregationalists, Presbyterians and Churches of Christ in which they stated the faith and sought to make its implications clear.

**Faith alive and active: gift of an eternal source, renewed for every generation.**

We conduct our life together according to the Basis of Union in which we give expression to our faith in forms which we believe contain the essential elements of the Church's life, both catholic and reformed; but we affirm our right and readiness, if the need arises, to change the Basis of Union and to make new statements of faith in ever new obedience to the Living Christ.

**Our crucified and risen Lord, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection.**

Held together in the Body of Christ through the freedom of the Spirit, we rejoice in the diversity of the Spirit's gifts and uphold the rights of personal conviction. For the sake of faith and fellowship it shall be for the church to decide where differences of conviction hurt our unity and peace.

**We commit ourselves to speak the truth in love and grow together in the peace of Christ.**

We believe that Christ gives his Church a government distinct from the government of the state. In things that affect obedience to God the Church is not subordinate to the state, but must serve the Lord Jesus Christ, its only Ruler and Head. Civil authorities are called to serve God's will of justice and peace for all humankind, and to respect the rights of conscience and belief.

**While we ourselves are servants in the world as citizens of God's eternal kingdom.**

We affirm our intention to go on praying and working, with all our fellow Christians, for the visible unity of the Church in the way Christ chooses so that people and nations may be led to love and serve God and praise him more and more for ever.

**Source, Guide, and Goal of all that is: to God be eternal glory.**

**Amen.**

**Hymn 4:** Seek ye first the kingdom of God (*Taken from R&S 512*)

Seek ye first the kingdom of God,  
and His righteousness,  
and all these things shall be added unto you;

*Alleluia, alleluia,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

Ask, and it shall be given unto you,  
seek, and ye shall find;  
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you;

*Alleluia, alleluia,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

We shall not live by bread alone,  
but by ev'ry word  
that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord;

*Alleluia, alleluia,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

## **Membership Introduction**

**Affirmations:-** Those wishing to commit to membership of Caversham United Reformed Church are invited to stand.

By baptism we have been received into membership of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. Those who are standing will affirm their baptism, confess their faith in Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord, and are willing to accept the privileges and responsibilities of membership of the Church of Christ.

Do you confess anew your faith and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, maker of heaven and earth, giver of life, redeemer of the world?

**I do.**

Do you promise to continue in the worship and fellowship of the Church in this congregation, accepting the gift and cost of following Christ, and proclaiming by word and action the good news of God in Christ?

**I do, with God's help.**

**Short chant:** *(Ray on Guitar)*

*Spirit of God o how we need you  
Come fill my life again  
Come fill your church anew*

## **Eldership:**

### **Statement of purpose**

The Lord Jesus Christ continues his ministry in and through the Church, the whole people of God called and committed to his service. To equip them for this ministry he gives particular gifts, and calls some of his servants to exercise them in offices duly recognised within the Church. Some are called to the ministry of Word and Sacraments; some are called to be elders.

Elders share with the minister in the pastoral oversight and leadership of the local church. To each is normally entrusted a group of members. In the elders' meeting they take counsel together for the whole congregation. They are responsible for making provision for Christian worship and education, for maintaining proper standards of membership, and for promoting witness and service to the community, mission at home and abroad, and the peace, unity and welfare of the Church. It is their duty to arrange for the proper maintenance of church buildings, and to ensure the oversight of church finances.

Some elders represent the local church in the wider councils of the Church, and by virtue of their membership of these councils represent the whole Church to the local church.

Elders, being elected by the church meeting, are ordained to their office and inducted to serve for such period as the church which elects them determines. Their ordination and induction is an act of the Church, and is undertaken in the light of the Statement concerning the Nature, Faith and Order of the United Reformed Church

### **Affirmations** *(those being ordained as elders asked to stand)*

Do you accept the Statement concerning the Nature, Faith and Order of the United Reformed Church and confess again your faith in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

**I do.**

In dependence on God's grace do you reaffirm your trust in Jesus Christ as saviour and Lord and your promise to follow him and to seek to do and to bear his will all the days of your life?

**I do.**

Do you believe that the Word of God in the Old and New Testaments, discerned under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, is the supreme authority for the faith and conduct of all God's people?

**I do.**



Do you accept the office of elder of the United Reformed Church in this congregation and do you promise to perform its duties faithfully?

**I do.**

**Ordination** (*All new elders, not previously ordained, may kneel*)

Thank you, God, for the various gifts which you give to your people, and for the varieties of ministry in the Church. Thank you for all women and men of faith and integrity who have served in the Caversham Park Ecumenical Church.

Thank you, now, for **Alison, Robert, Dorothy, Stephen and Michael**.

*The minister and appointed elders (Clare, Tony Ray...) lay hands on each person to be ordained, praying thus:*

Empower them with your Holy Spirit, give them humility and grace, so that by their faithfulness, they may show your love to your people: in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. In your name, and trusting it to be your will, we now ordain **Alison, Robert, Dorothy, Stephen and Michael** to be elders.

**Induction**

Do you, the members of this local church, accept and receive **Alison, Robert, Dorothy, Stephen and Michael** to serve as elders among you?

**We do**

Will you encourage and support them, and respond to their ministry acknowledging that it comes to you from God?

**We will**

Eternal God, you have called us all to serve you in the world and to share your love with each other and our neighbours. Through the decision of this local church you have called **Alison, Robert, Dorothy, Stephen and Michael** to serve as elders. Give them the promised blessings of your Holy Spirit and fill them with fresh vision and courage, to lead us in the work you have called us to do. Make them wise with the mind of Christ, and give them the gifts they need to fulfil this service faithfully; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Declaration of ordination and induction**

**Alison, Robert, Dorothy, Stephen and Michael**, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and according to the decision of the church meeting, I declare you to be ordained and inducted to serve as elders, and welcome you into this office, in confirmation of which I give you the right hand of fellowship.

May the God of peace sanctify you entirely, and may your spirit, soul and body be kept sound and blameless. The one who calls you is faithful, and will do this.

**Short chant:** *(Ray on Guitar)*

*Spirit of God o how we need you  
Come fill my life again  
Come fill your church anew*

**Signing of constitution** *(To be signed by Dr Alison Johnston, Robert Dimmick TSSF of Caversham Park and Clare Downing – Moderator and Ray Stanyon DSO-N of the United Reformed Church)*

**Renewal of Commitment**

And now as elders and members of this church and congregation, let us confirm our commitment to each other and to the gospel. Let us pursue what makes for peace and build each other up in love.

**We will grow together  
in humility, gentleness and patience;  
we will nurture each other in faith;  
we will bear with one another in love;  
we will make every effort  
to maintain the unity of the Holy Spirit  
in the bond of peace,  
so that we may faithfully proclaim the gospel of Christ.**

The God of peace will make us complete in everything good.  
**To whom be glory for ever.**

The Lord of peace will give us peace,  
**at all times and everywhere.**

The peace of the Lord is with you.  
**And also with you.**

Eternal God, accept this commitment made in your presence, and give us grace to make it true, so that we may not fail you in the end, but give you glory and honour by the way we live and through everything we say and do, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**Short chant:** *(Ray on Guitar)*

*Spirit of God o how we need you  
Come fill my life again  
Come fill your church anew*

**Prayers of concern** – TBA (Ray?)

**Hymn 5:** One more step along the road I go *(Taken from R&S 549)*

One more step along the world I go,  
one more step along the world I go,  
from the old things to the new  
keep me traveling along with you:

*And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
Keep me travelling along with you.*

Round the corner of the world I turn,  
more and more about the world I learn;  
all the new things that I see  
you'll be looking at along with me:

*And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
Keep me travelling along with you.*

As I travel through the bad and good,  
keep me travelling the way I should;  
where I see no way to go  
you'll be telling me the way, I know:

*And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
Keep me travelling along with you.*

Give me courage when the world is rough,  
keep me loving though the world is tough;  
leap and sing in all I do,  
keep me travelling along with you.

*And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
Keep me travelling along with you.*

You are older than the world can be,  
you are younger than the life in me;  
ever old and ever new,  
keep me travelling along with you.

*And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
Keep me travelling along with you.*

**Blessing**