

CAVERSHAM PARK
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Holy Communion Service order
(Sunday 4th February 2024)
Candlemas - Year B

**Candlemas service with Holy Communion
at Caversham Park URC (Forth Order)**

Opening Hymn: Angels From The Realms of Glory

(On Screen)

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 stories from the Bible that teach us about how Jesus was presented in the temple and the significance of it as we now worship in song and prayer.

Let us pray - Most loving and gracious God - King of creation and Lord of all - we thank you for how you have established your Holy Word as a living force in this world - for how you have shown forth your power, your glory and your love for us in the words and actions of the prophets and in your Son Jesus, whom you sent to us to lead us in the way of peace. Help us to hear your word this day, to absorb your love and to become more worthy disciples of Christ Jesus. We ask it in his name.
Amen.

Hymn 2 – Jesus Calls Us

The God to whom we make our confession is the God who loved us so much that God took on mortality, choosing to limit the divine, in order to understand us and be with us. Trusting in that love, let us make our confession, first in silent prayer.

Silence

On screen

Merciful God, from you comes all truth, all healing, all that makes our world good and whole. Forgive us, O Lord, those times when we have listened to those who do not speak for you.

Forgive us for the weakness that has led us at times to seek the water of life at springs which can never satisfy. Forgive us for not testing the spirits that are around us: forgive us too for how we play with empty knowledge and delight in useless predictions that help neither us or those around us.

Have mercy on us and speak once again to us. Help us to hear the word you send and to turn away from the words that come from false prophets and those who do not know your ways. Lord, hear our prayer, touch us and make us whole. Amen

This is the promise of God - "If my people humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their Land (2 Chronicles 7:14). Therefore, I tell you - as you have confessed, so you are forgiven. Listen to the Lord and to the Lord only and his mercy will cover you and all that you do. **Amen.**

On screen

Thanks be to God

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen

Lord Jesus Christ, the light of the nations and glory of Israel: make your home among us, and present us pure and holy to your heavenly Father, Your God and Our God. **Amen**

Reading 1 - Malachi 3:1-5 (NIV)

Reading 2 – Psalm 24 (NIV)

Hymn 3 – Come Thou Long Expected Jesus.

Gospel – Luke 2:22–40 (NIV)

Sermon – Presentation of Christ

Hymn 4 - God of Mercy, God of Grace

Intercessions

Gracious words

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*

The Peace

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

Peace be with you.

Hymn 5 – Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

The Narrative of the Institution of the Lord's Supper

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*

The Taking of the Bread and wine

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

The Thanksgiving (On Screen)

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.

We praise you that he is the light of the world through whom we are brought out of darkness into light, and that by him your glory has been revealed to the nations.

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.

(On Screen)

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.**

The Lord's Prayer (*On Screen*)

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 Breaking of the Bread

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.

Distribution of the Bread and Wine then follows with the following hymn:

Hymn 6 – Broken for you

The Acclamation *(On Screen)*

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.**

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

(On Screen)

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

Offerings

We offer these gifts, O God, as a sign of our pledge, to serve you, not only in this place, but in all places. Accept and use them, and use us, as instruments of your peace; through Christ our Lord. Amen

Dismissal and 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 in peace, and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit go with you and radiate forth from you to the glory of His name, both now and forevermore. **Amen.**

Hymn 7 – The Church's One Foundation