

CAVERSHAM PARK  
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Holy Communion Service order

(Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024)

Lent 3 (revised pattern) - Year B

**Lent 3 service with Holy Communion  
at Caversham Park URC (Forth Order)**

**Opening Hymn: What Does The Lord Require of You**

*(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 show how we are loved by Jesus and how he clears the way to greater understanding.

God of Love, source of all order and meaning, we gather to give praise and thanksgiving to you for your love - a love perfectly revealed in Jesus and seen in the law and in all the prophets. We thank you, Father, for your grace and for the loving guidance you have given us. Lord, you know how we need your presence to be complete, how we need your living word to direct our feet in the path of righteousness, how we need your Spirit to help us each day to live by the law of love. In this time of worship help us to discover the fullness of your will for our lives - and help us to rejoice in that will and to lift our voices in praise and in honour of you. We ask these things in Jesus' name, trusting in his mercy by which we have been born anew to living hope. **Amen.**

**Hymn 2 – O Love, How Deep**

Let us confess our sins to God and ask for forgiveness

***On screen***

***Most Holy and Merciful God, you who inhabit every heart that is open to you, you who dwell in the praises of your people, hear our prayer.***

***Forgive us, O Lord, if we have in any way defiled your holy places. Pardon us for the slander and malice that has discoloured your creation and heal us of the resentments and envies that have stained your world.***

***Forgive us too, most loving Father, for how we have distorted your law and misunderstood your gracious will for us.***

***Forgive us Lord for how we have so often concentrated on the written word of Holy Scripture and have failed to heed the call of the word which lives within us.***

***We confess, O God, that we too often stress duty and obligation and too infrequently mention the joy, the wonder, and the peace of living in the way you have shown us.***

***Forgive us, O Lord. Help us to pause and listen for the guidance of your Holy Spirit. Show us our error and fill us with your grace and your power.***

***O Lord, hear our prayer.***

***Touch us and make us whole. Amen.***

Hear the record of God's grace and mercy - There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set us free from the law of sin and of death.

Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

***On screen***

**Thanks be to God**

Lord, have mercy on us.

**Christ, have mercy on us.**

**Lord, have mercy on us.**

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent, may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way, may we come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Reading 1** - Exodus 20:1-17 (NIV)

**Reading 2** – Psalm 19:7-14 (NIV)

**Hymn 3** - Seek Ye First The Kingdom of God

**Gospel** – John 2:13-22 (NIV)

**Sermon** – Clearing The Temple

**Hymn 4** - Thy Hand O God, Has Guided

**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** - Holy Spirit, Hear Us

**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**

Your law, O God, challenges our priorities and turns us away from the darkness of greed and selfishness towards the light and peace of your presence. We pray you, accept these gifts given in obedience to your word, and guide us so, that all our words and all our actions serve to bring your justice, your joy, and your love to the world around us. **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 - love and care for one another in the name of Christ; And may the love of God's holy law and devotion to God's holy will fill your hearts; may the living presence of Christ cleanse you from all unrighteousness, and may the Spirit of God uphold you and show you the way you should go both now and always. **Amen.**

**Hymn 7 - Spirit Of The Living God**