

CAVERSHAM PARK
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Holy Communion Service order
(Sunday 21st March 2024)
Easter Day (revised pattern) - Year B

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

Opening Hymn: Jesus Christ is Risen Today

(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.

Today is the day of resurrection - the high point of our faith - the day we celebrate every Sunday when we gather to worship and praise God.

Easter has had many things associated with it over the years. The Easter Lily - which reminds of how new life comes each spring. The rabbit which reminds of the fertile abundance of the world that God has created. And the Easter Egg - which reminds us that in the tomb where the dead body of Jesus lay - lay also the promise of his being raised from the dead.

An egg looks quite dead and lifeless. But - given the warm love of the mother hen it produces a new and wonderful life.

Let us Pray

Heavenly Father and God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for He is alive and has become the Lord of life. From the waters of death You raise us with Him and renew Your gift of life within us. You redeem us in the blood of Christ and give us new birth in the Spirit. We thank you, and we pray that as we celebrate our Lord's resurrection, that you would increase our awareness of these blessings and increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Him. Help us to grow as Your people towards the fullness of eternal life with You; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Hymn 2 – This Is The Day

Let us confess our sins to God and ask for forgiveness

On screen

Gracious God, we pray in sorrow for the ways we go wrong in our lives, the ways we fail in our witness to Your love. We have journeyed through Lent, attempting to shape our lives around the compassion and courage of Christ, yet we have heard in our hearts the impulses of those who denied Jesus, betrayed Him and mocked Him. Forgive us for the ways we have abandoned the path of love and justice. Yet we trust in Your grace, Your forgiveness, and Your acceptance flowing from the cross; Your joy shared in resurrection life. Help us to live lives liberated from guilt, and inspired to follow Your risen Son.
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 through his resurrection has set us free from the law of sin and of death.

Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

On screen (Affirmation of Faith for Easter)

Thanks be to God

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make us new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church, to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our Judge and our Hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Collect

God of glory, by the raising of your Son, you have broken the chains of death and hell; fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned, and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Reading 1 - I Corinthians 15:1-11 (NIV)

Reading 2 – Psalm 118:14-24 (NIV)

Hymn 3 - I Danced In The Morning

Gospel – Mark 16:1-8 (NIV)

Sermon – What we Believe

Hymn 4 - Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks to the risen Lord

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 - The Strife Is O'er**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.

Loving and Compassionate God, Father, all-powerful and ever-living, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord. We praise you with great joy on this Easter day, when Christ rose in fulfilment of the promises you made through the law and the prophets. He is the true Lamb who takes away the sins of the world. By dying, he destroyed our death, by rising, he restored our life. And so, with all creation, and with all the company of the redeemed, we magnify your glorious name, evermore praising thee, saying.

(*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; 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 forever. **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 – Eat This Bread

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

O God, we come with our offerings in response to your love. With the new life in Christ, we give ourselves in service to you and to our brothers and sisters. Receive the work we do and the gifts that we bring, that they and we may prove to be a blessing to you and to the world that Christ came to save. We ask it in his name. **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, may the blessing of the Ever-Present God be upon you, the power of the Risen Christ be within you, and the wisdom and gentleness of the Holy Spirit surround you and guide you both now and forevermore. **Amen.**

Hymn 7 - Tell out my soul