

CAVERSHAM PARK CHURCH
LOCAL ECUMENICAL PARTNERSHIP

Christmas Eve
Holy Communion Service order
(24th December 2020)
Year B

A service of Holy Communion at Caversham Park (Forth Order)

Opening Hymn: O Come All Ye Faithful

(On Screen)

Let us worship God.

This is the Evening 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.

We gather to celebrate the birth of the one who is the light of the world.

We are here to worship God and his Son Jesus Christ, born this night in Bethlehem of Judea.

We light the candle of hope to remind us of the promises made by all the prophets that God would raise up a saviour for his people Israel and through Him bless all the nations.

Let the heavens and the earth rejoice. Our Lord has come.

- light the first candle -

We light the candle of peace to remind us that the Prince of Peace comes to enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Let the heavens and the earth rejoice. Our Lord has come.

- light the second candle -

We light the candle of joy to remind us that the Lord has made known his salvation and that grace is poured out upon us.

Let the heavens and the earth rejoice. Our Lord has come.

- light the third candle -

We light the candle of love to remind us that God so loved the world that he sent his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him might have eternal life.

Let the heavens and the earth rejoice. Our Lord has come.

- light the fourth candle -

We light the Christ candle to celebrate and rejoice that the light of the world is born this night....

- light the Christ candle -

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness - on them a light has shined. You, O Lord, have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given. And the government shall be upon his shoulder. He is called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Glory be to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to all people of good will. Alleluia!

Prayer of Approach

Let us pray.

Almighty God - you have made this night holy by the gift of your Son, born of the Spirit and of Mary. Let his light shine within our hearts even more brightly than it shines from the candles in this place. Help us to hear your word and to celebrate your everlasting love through Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn 2 - Good Christian Men Rejoice

A CHRISTMAS CONFESSION (Taken from the Christmas Creed: A Christmas Creed)

Let us confess our sins to God and ask for forgiveness.

(On Screen)

I believe in Jesus Christ and the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem.

I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town; and whose spirit still brings joy to people all over the world in towns both large and small.

I believe in the one for whom the crowded inn could find no room, and I confess that my heart still sometimes wants to exclude Christ from my life today.

I believe in the one who the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand; whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts.

I believe in the one who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible:

I believe in the one whose cradle was a mother's arms, whose modest home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth, who looked at people and made them see what God's love saw in

them, who, by love, brought sinners back to purity, and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.

I confess the many things that stand in the way of true celebration of God's love.

I confess those things in my life that have caused me to become separated from my God, my neighbours, and myself

..... (silent prayer)

I confess my ever-lasting need of God:

The need of forgiveness for selfishness and greed, the need of new life for empty souls, the need of love for hearts grown cold.

I believe in God who gives us the best of himself.

I believe in Jesus, the son of the living God, born in Bethlehem this night, for me and for the world, I believe that in and through Him comes God's gift of forgiveness and new life, both here and in the world to come.

Assurance of Pardon *(On Screen)*

God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him
may not perish
but may have eternal life.

To all who repent and believe,
we declare, in the name of the Father,
the Son and the Holy Spirit:
God grants you the forgiveness of your sins.

Thanks be to God.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Collect:

Eternal God, who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light: bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Reading 1 - Luke 1:26-38 (NIV)

Hymn 3 - O Little Town of Bethlehem

Reading 2 - Luke 2:1-14 (NIV)

Reading 3 - Luke 2:15-20 (NIV)

Sermon

Hymn 4 - Away in a Manger

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

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and his name is called the Prince of Peace

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

Peace be with you.

Hymn 5 - It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

The offertory (*This may be taken with the Hymn*)

Let us pray.

Eternal God, we come with these gifts to offer our sacrifice of praise and the service of our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 our nature and was born as the child of Mary, that he might share our life. Reveal your love and reconcile us to yourself, and give power to become your Sons and daughters.

(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:

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

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen

Go in peace. Proclaim the word made flesh.
Glory, thanks and praise to God.

Hymn - Silent Night