



The Order of Worship

for the

Service of Amalgamation

of

St. Andrew's United Reformed Church

and

The Avenue United Reformed Church

to form

Avenue St. Andrew's United Reformed Church

to be held on

28th September, 1986

Presiding Minister

The Reverend Nelson W. Bainbridge M.A.

Moderator of the Wessex Province of the United Reformed Church

The Service will proceed unannounced
Please stand when the Bible is brought in by the Elder

WORSHIP

Introit 'Lead me Lord' S.S. Wesley

Scripture Sentences

Prayers of Approach and Confession

Hymn

1. *Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and corner-stone,
Chosen of the Lord and precious,
Binding all the Church in one;
Holy Zion's help for ever,
And her confidence alone.*
2. *All that dedicated city,
Dearly loved of God on high,
In exultant jubilation
Pours perpetual melody;
God, the One in Three, adoring
In glad hymns eternally.*
3. *To this temple where we call Thee,
Come, O Lord of Hosts, today;
With Thy wonted loving-kindness
Hear Thy people as they pray;
And Thy fullest benediction
Shed within its walls for ay.*
4. *Here vouchsafe to all Thy servants
What they ask of Thee to gain,
What they gain from Thee for ever
With the blesse'd to retain,
And hereafter in Thy glory
Evermore with Thee to reign.*

The youngest children leave to continue worship in Junior Church.

*In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church, who has ascended on high and has given gifts for the building up of His Body, we gather in thanksgiving for God's ministry in the Avenue and St. Andrew's United Reformed Churches over many years, and now to unite them, so that as a single fellowship in one congregation, ministry and service may be strengthened for the upbuilding of his Kingdom.
Let us therefore hear the Word of God in the Scriptures as they are read and preached:*

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Scripture Reading Ephesians 5 v. 21-30

Anthem 'Te Deum Laudamus' W. Jackson

Sermon "The Church – The Bride of Christ"

Hymn

1. *The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the word:
From heaven He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.*
2. *Elect from every nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation
One Lord, one faith, one birth:
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses
With every grace endued.*
3. *'Mid toil, and tribulation,
And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation
Of peace for evermore;
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest.*
4. *Yet she on earth hath union
With God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly,
On high may dwell with Thee*

ACT OF UNION

Statement of the Nature, Faith and Order of the United Reformed Church

Questions to Ministers & Congregations: (all standing).

To the Minister: *In your ministry in the United Church do you reaffirm you promise to fulfil your duties with all fidelity, to lead your people in worship, to preach the Word and administer the Sacraments, to exercise pastoral care and oversight and to give leadership to the church in its mission to the world?*

Ministers: I do.

To the Members of St. Andrew's: *In coming together in the United Church do you, the members of St. Andrew's, recognise the calling of Tony Spring to be a christian minister, and receive him as from God to serve among you here. Do you promise to pray for him and to give him due honour, consideration and encouragement in his ministry?*

Members of St. Andrew's: We do.

To the Members of The Avenue: *In coming together in the United Church do you, the members of The Avenue, recognise the calling of Derek Cole to be a christian minister, and receive him as from God to serve among you here. Do you promise to pray for him and to give him due honour, consideration and encouragement in his ministry?*

Members of The Avenue: We do.

To the Members of St. Andrew's: *Do you, the members of St. Andrew's, receive in Christ the members of The Avenue as fellow members of the United Church. Do you promise to pray for one another, to share together in seeking and doing the will of God, and to build one another up in faith, hope and love?*

Members of St. Andrew's: We do.

To the Members of The Avenue: *Do you, the members of The Avenue, receive in Christ the members of St. Andrew's as fellow members of the United Church. Do you promise to pray for one another, to share together in seeking and doing the will of God, and to build one another up in faith, hope and love?*

Members of The Avenue: We do.

ACT OF COMMITMENT BY ST. ANDREW'S AND AVENUE CHURCHES

We, the members of The Avenue and St. Andrew's United Reformed Churches commit ourselves to each other as one fellowship of Faith, to worship, pray and serve together for the building up of the Body of Christ.

We give thanks for all that has been achieved in our separate churches as now we place the future in God's hands.

We believe that the Church is One and that it is God's purpose that we should live and serve as one Household of Faith.

We pledge to seek enrichment of fellowship and service through strong ecumenical relationships with the City Centre Parish of Southampton and the Stag Gates Churches.

We believe that God is renewing us for mission in this city.

We pray for the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit that we may live together in God's love, set forth His Glory and serve His Kingdom.

DECLARATION OF AMALGAMATION

The Moderator

GREETINGS

Representatives of the Avenue and St. Andrew's, the City Centre Parish, the District Council and the Wessex Province will bring greetings

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

Hymn

- 1. The Church is wherever God's people are praising,
Singing their thanks for joy on this day.
The Church is wherever disciples of Jesus
Remember his story and walk in his way.*
- 2. The Church is wherever God's people are helping
Caring for neighbours in sickness and need.
The Church is wherever God's people are sharing
The words of the Bible in gift and in deed.*

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptism of Caroline Suzanne Cole

Baptismal Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

The Offering

Hymn

- 1. Now thank we all our God,
With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms,
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours to-day.*
- 2. O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blesse'd peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.*
- 3. All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns
With Them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.*

THE BLESSING

Organ Postlude

"The Heavens Declare"

Benedetto Marcello
(1686-1739)

**The Moderator of the Wessex Province of the URC.,
The Reverend Nelson W. Bainbridge, M.A. will preside at the service.**

Others taking part in the service will be:

Mr. John Singleton	- Organist
The Reverend Lawrence Wheeler	- Southampton District Secretary
The Reverend John Harrison	- City Centre Parish
Mrs. Christine Hardwick	- Southampton District Chairman
The Reverend Jeanne Christie	- Auxiliary Minister
The Reverend Tony Spring	- previously Minister of Avenue URC
The Reverend Derek Cole	- previously Minister of St. Andrew's URC