



St Paul's
United
Reformed
Church

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Order of Service

Sunday 30th July 2023



Be Encouraged

Please use 'T' on your hearing aid if you need the hearing loop.

Today's service is being led by: **John Ellis**

The Organ is played by: **Pam Vaughn**

It is a joy to welcome you to this service!

If you do not attend a church elsewhere, we invite you to join regularly with us in our Sunday worship and other activities – see www.stpaulsurc.org.uk

Feel free to spend time before worship for quiet preparation, especially once the music begins. We light a candle at the start of the service to remind us all of Christ's message of peace.

The Reformed Church recognises God's Word as its supreme authority and **you are asked to stand as the Bible is brought in** at the start of worship, **and again as the Bible is taken out after the blessing.**

We pray that you will know God's presence as we worship – in church, at home, online, outdoors, at work, school; in all places.

Welcome & Notices

Lighting the Peace Candle

Opening Worship Sentences

Hymn 43: I sing the Almighty power of God

Prayers of Approach and Confession

using R&S 2(b), 3(a), 4(b)

The Lord's Prayer (modern version)

Our Father in heaven

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours

now and for ever.

Amen

Family Time – Not St Paul

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication

Hymn: God forgave my sin

1. God forgave my sin in Jesus' name,
I've been born again in Jesus' name,
and in Jesus' name I come to you
to share his love as he told me to.

He said:

'Freely, freely you have received;
freely, freely give.
Go in my name and because you believe,
others will know that I live.'

2. All power is given in Jesus' name,
in earth and heaven in Jesus' name,
and in Jesus' name I come to you
to share his power as he told me to.

He said:

'Freely, freely you have received;
freely, freely give.
Go in my name and because you believe,
others will know that I live.'

We say the grace together:

**May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.
Evermore. Amen**

Children leave for their activities

Reading: Jeremiah Ch 20 vv 1-18

Now the priest Pashhur son of Immer, who was chief officer in the house of the Lord, heard Jeremiah prophesying these things. Then Pashhur struck the prophet Jeremiah and put him in the stocks that were in the upper Benjamin Gate of the house of the Lord. The next morning when Pashhur released Jeremiah from the stocks, Jeremiah said to him, “The Lord has named you not Pashhur but ‘Terror-all-around.’ For thus says the Lord: I am making you a terror to yourself and to all your friends, and they shall fall by the sword of their enemies while you look on. And I will give all Judah into the hand of the king of Babylon; he shall carry them captive to Babylon and shall kill them with the sword. I will give all the wealth of this city, all its gains, all its prized belongings, and all the treasures of the kings of Judah into the hand of their enemies, who shall plunder them and seize them and carry them to Babylon. And you, Pashhur, and all who live in your house, shall go into captivity, and to Babylon

you shall go; there you shall die, and there you shall be buried, you and all your friends, to whom you have prophesied falsely.”

O Lord, you have enticed me, and I was enticed;
you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed.
I have become a laughingstock all day long;
everyone mocks me.

For whenever I speak, I must cry out;
I must shout, “Violence and destruction!”
For the word of the Lord has become for me
a reproach and derision all day long.

If I say, “I will not mention him
or speak any more in his name,”
then within me there is something like a burning fire
shut up in my bones;

I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.
For I hear many whispering: “Terror is all around!
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!”

All my close friends are watching for me to stumble.
“Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him
and take our revenge on him.”

But the Lord is with me like a terrifying warrior;
therefore my persecutors will stumble,
and they will not prevail.

They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed.
Their eternal dishonour will never be forgotten.

O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous;
you see the heart and the mind;
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

Sing to the Lord; praise the Lord!
For he has delivered the life of the needy
from the hands of evildoers.

Cursed be the day on which I was born!
The day when my mother bore me, let it not be blessed!
Cursed be the man
who brought the news to my father, saying,
“A child is born to you, a son,” making him very glad.
Let that man be like the cities
that the Lord overthrew without pity;
let him hear a cry in the morning and an alarm at noon,
because he did not kill me in the womb;
so my mother would have been my grave
and her womb forever pregnant.
Why did I come forth from the womb
to see toil and sorrow and spend my days in shame?

Hymn 242: Ye humble souls

Reading: Acts Ch 11 vv 19-30

Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that took place over Stephen travelled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, and they spoke the word to no one except Jews. But among them were some men of Cyprus and Cyrene who, on coming to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists also, proclaiming the Lord Jesus. The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number became believers and turned to the Lord. News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast devotion; for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were brought to the Lord. Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for an entire year they met with the church and taught a great many people, and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called “Christians.”

At that time prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them named Agabus stood up and predicted by the Spirit that there would be a severe famine over all the world; and this took place during the reign of Claudius. The disciples determined that according to their ability, each would send relief to the believers living in Judea; this they did, sending it to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

Sermon – The Son of Encouragement

Silent Meditation

Hymn 338: Stay with us, God

Prayers of intercession

Hymn 590: In heavenly love abiding

Benediction

You are very welcome to join us in the large hall for refreshments after the service



Thank you Junior church for our lovely welcome banner!

Coming up...

United Prayer Time – Zoom - St Paul's & South Croydon United Church. Meeting ID: 845 5391 2820 **Every Friday, 6pm**

Synod Area weekly online prayer time – a chance to pause, reflect and join other from across the SWL area
'Zoom' Meeting ID: 896 3882 1888 Password: URC50

Tuesday Guild Summer Coffee Mornings – Next Tuesday 8th August at Jean's house

Book club – Summer read is the Grapes of Wrath

M&R Meeting - on Tuesday 8pm small hall

Elders meeting - on Wednesday 8pm Vestry

Next week – Communion worship is led by the Minister.
The communion offering will be in aid of the Benevolent Fund

For other events and activities please see our website

Croham Park Avenue, South Croydon, CR2 7HF www.stpaulsurc.org.uk
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