



*St Paul's*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

*Minister:*  
**Rev. Martin Knight**  
Currently unavailable

*Church Secretaries:*  
**Sue Eardley**

07971 068887 [secretary@stpaulsurc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@stpaulsurc.org.uk)

**Bea Pollard**

020 8657 0162 [ronandbea@btinternet.com](mailto:ronandbea@btinternet.com)

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# Order of Service

*Sunday 2 January 2022*



*"The Word became flesh and lived  
among us"*

*Please use 'T' on your hearing aid if you need to use the Hearing Loop.*

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This morning's service is being led by: **Bea Pollard**  
The Organ is played by: **Mr John Hankin**

We extend a very warm welcome to you. 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](http://www.stpaulsurc.org.uk)

You are welcome to use the 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.**

### Important notes:

- It is a joy to welcome you to this service!  
St Paul's URC has a **full Covid-19 Risk Assessment**, to help keep us all safe, so please follow the notices and advice you are given in church.
- Please continue to **maintain social distancing** where possible and we encourage people to **wash and sanitise their hands regularly.**
- In line with new government guidance **you are required to wear a face covering indoors unless exempt.** Please bear with one another to keep us all safe.
- The hymns and responses are in this **Order Sheet, but feel free to pick up a Hymn book or Bible should you wish.**
- **Offertory** – we circulate the collection bag for contributions to the church's work, but standing orders and bank transfers are preferred (please ask an elder or welcomer for details) and we have a credit card reader if you prefer that..
- 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

### The lighting of the advent candles

Jesus is the light of the world

***A light no darkness that can never be put out***

Amen.

*We sing: (tune Angel voices ever singing)*

Advent candles tell their story on this Christmas Day

Those who waited for God's glory:

they prepared the way.

Christ is with us: loving, giving, in us living,

here today!.

## Call to Worship and Prayer of Approach

### Hymn – 173 CH3 - The first Nowell

1 The first nowell, the angel did say

was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;

in fields where they lay keeping their sheep

on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Refrain: Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,*

*born is the King of Israel.*

2 They lookèd up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.

*Refrain*

3 Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord  
who hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood mankind hath bought.

*Refrain.*

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## **Talk ; A Big Risk**

### **Hymn 178: Who would think that what was needed**

1 Who would think that what was needed  
To transform and save the earth  
Might not be a plan or army,  
Proud in purpose, proved in worth?  
Who would think, despite derision,  
That a child should lead the way?  
God surprises earth with heaven,  
Coming here on Christmas Day.

2 Shepherds watch and wise men wonder,  
Monarchs scorn and angels sing;

3 Such a place as none would reckon  
Hosts a holy helpless thing;  
Stabled beasts and passing strangers  
Watch a baby laid in hay:  
God surprises earth with heaven  
Coming here on Christmas Day.

4 Centuries of skill and science  
Span the past from which we move,  
Yet experience questions whether,  
With such progress, we improve.  
While the human lot we ponder,  
Lest our hopes and humour fray,  
God surprises earth with heaven  
Coming here on Christmas Day.

## Junior Church Blessing

As Junior Church leave for their activities we bless them  
and each other with the words of the Grace:

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and  
the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and  
forever, Amen**

## Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

When the leader says: We have sinned  
Please respond: **Forgive – and heal us.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

## Hymn 181: Of the Father's love begotten

1 Of the Father's love begotten  
ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega,  
he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been,  
and that future years shall see  
evermore and evermore.

2 By his world were all created  
He commanded and 'twas done  
earth and sky and boundless ocean  
universe of Three in One  
all that sees the moon's soft radiance  
all that breathes beneath the sun  
evermore and evermore.

3 Oh, that birth forever blessed  
when the virgin, full of grace,  
by the Spirit's power, conceiving,  
bore the Saviour of our race,  
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,  
first revealed his sacred face  
evermore and evermore.

4 This is he whom seers in old time  
chanted of with one accord,  
whom the voices of the prophets  
promised in their faithful word.

Now he shines, the long-expected;  
let creation praise its Lord  
evermore and evermore.

### Scripture reading: John 1: 1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

## Sermon

### Hymn 174: Where is this stupendous stranger

tune Sussex 353

Where is this stupendous stranger?  
Prophets, shepherds, kings, advise.  
Lead me to my Master's manger,  
show me where my Saviour lies.  
O Most Mighty! O Most Holy!  
Far beyond the seraph's thought:  
art thou then so weak and lowly  
as unheeded prophets taught?

O the magnitude of meekness!  
Worth from worth immortal sprung;  
O the strength of infant weakness,  
if eternal is so young!  
God all-bounteous, all-creative,  
whom no ills from good dissuade,  
is incarnate, and a native  
of the very world he made.

## Prayers of Intercession

### Offering and prayers

*including communion offering (in envelopes) for the work of MSF-UK – see back page.*

## Communion Hymn: The Body of Christ

Tune: *Gabriel's Message* R&S 139

We celebrate the birth of one so small,  
who came to humankind with love for all.  
We praise that child, that tiny body, soon to grow  
to be the Christ, our Saviour: Gloria!

We celebrate the feast of one so real,  
through bread and wine our hearts and minds to heal.  
We praise him for his life, his death, his body raised,  
for he is Christ, our Saviour: Gloria!

We celebrate the Spirit bursting free,  
and praise him that we are empowered to be  
his body here on earth to dwell, for all to see  
that he is Christ, our Saviour: Gloria!

## Holy Communion

Responses used during communion:

Leader: Let us pray. The Lord be with you.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All. It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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Therefore we gladly join our voices  
to the song of the Church on earth and in heaven:

**All: 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.**

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The Peace:

Having tasted Christ's goodness,  
let us share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**All: And also with you.**

## **Hymn 135 Joy to the World**

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing. (x3)

2 Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!  
Let all their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy. (x3)

3 He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love. (x3)

## **Sending forth and blessing**

## **Doxology Hymn 151 v3 and chorus**

Angels sing again the song you sang  
God's great glory and redeeming plan  
sing that Bethlem's little baby can  
be the Saviour of us all

O now carry me to Bethlehem  
to see the Lord appear to men  
just as poor as was the stable then  
the Prince of Glory when he came

***We extend a very warm welcome to you!***

**United Prayer Time Fridays at 7:30-8pm**

*for St Paul's and South Croydon United Church*

*'Zoom' Meeting ID: 845 5391 2820*

**Communion Offering** *is in aid of MSF-UK (part of the Médecins Sans Frontières) charity. They have a special Afghanistan Appeal. Please put your donations in the brown envelopes to distinguish from the usual offertory for the work of the church. There is a card reader at the exit if you prefer to donate that way.*

**Next Sunday** – *worship at 10.30am*

**Book Club** *-Is reading Piranesi by Susanna Clark, Discussion is on Thursday 6 Jan 12.30-2pm, Coach House Café, Coombe Lane.*

**Tuesday morning 'Guild'** – *we aim to restart our weekly 10.15-noon group with speakers and refreshments, from 4<sup>th</sup> January – see separate details. All welcome*

**Cooking for homeless people** – *If you are willing to cook a meal for five on a Friday in January that can be collected and delivered to the hub for homeless people please contact Pat Granville Overton.*

***For future events and activities please see our website***



**St Paul's United Reformed Church**

*Croham Park Avenue, South Croydon, CR2 7HF [www.stpaulsurc.org.uk](http://www.stpaulsurc.org.uk)*

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