

Order of Service

Sunday 20th April 2025

A Celebration for Easter Sunday



Do you see what I see?

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

Today's service is being led by: **Revd. Nicola Furley-Smith**
The organ is played by: **Jonathan Heaton**

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.

What are the white cloths?

We traditionally put these on the pews when we share Holy Communion together. You are invited to sit 'behind' them so you can be served at 'God's table' (it also makes it easier for the servers to reach you).

He is Risen Alleluia!

Welcome to our service this morning for Easter Day and especially any visitors who are here for the first time. We hope you find fellowship and friendship here. Our service will include the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. We invite all those who acknowledge Jesus as Lord and Saviour to join with us.

Lent has been a time of journeying with Jesus to and from the cross. In our celebration this morning we shall be travelling to and from the empty tomb.

Notices

Call to Worship

This is the Good News - the grave is empty, Christ is risen.

ALL: HALLELUJAH!

This is the Good News - the light shines in the darkness and the darkness can never put it out.

ALL: HALLELUJAH!

This is the Good News - once we were no people, now we are God's people.

ALL: HALLELUJAH!

Christ is our peace, the indestructible peace we now share with each other.

Hymn 262 (R&S): Crown Him with many crowns

Prayers of Approach & The Lord's Prayer

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**

Introduction to the theme: Do you see what I see?

Reading: John 20: 1-10

¹⁻²Early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone was moved away from the entrance. She ran at once to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, gasping for breath. "They took the Master from the tomb. We don't know where they've put him." ³⁻¹⁰Peter and the other disciple left immediately for the tomb. They ran, neck and neck. The other disciple got to the tomb first, outrunning Peter. Stooping to look in, he saw the pieces of linen cloth lying there, but he didn't go in. Simon Peter arrived after him, entered the tomb, observed the linen cloths lying there, and the kerchief used to cover his head

not lying with the linen cloths but separate, neatly folded by itself. Then the other disciple, the one who had gotten there first, went into the tomb, took one look at the evidence, and believed. No one yet knew from the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead. The disciples then went back home.

Hymn 234(R&S): Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the Risen Lord

Do you see what I see? Spot the difference!

Reading: John 20: 11-18

¹¹⁻¹²But Mary stood outside the tomb weeping. As she wept, she knelt to look into the tomb and saw two angels sitting there, dressed in white, one at the head, the other at the foot of where Jesus' body had been laid. They said to her, "Woman, why do you weep?" ¹³⁻¹⁴"They took my Master," she said, "and I don't know where they put him." After she said this, she turned away and saw Jesus standing there. But she didn't recognize him. ¹⁵Jesus spoke to her, "Woman, why do you weep? Who are you looking for?" She, thinking that he was the gardener, said, "Sir, if you took him, tell me where you put him so I can care for him." ¹⁶Jesus said, "Mary." Turning to face him, she said in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" meaning "Teacher!" ¹⁷Jesus said, "Don't cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go to my brothers and tell them, 'I ascend to my Father and your Father, my God and your God.'" ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went, telling the news to

the disciples: “I saw the Master!” And she told them everything he said to her.

Prayer of Confession

Dear God,

We are sorry when we don't believe good news or good people because we are afraid of being disappointed or let down. We are sorry and ask you to help us to be bold in our faith and lives, that others may see and be changed by the Easter story too. **Amen.**

Hymn 188 (R&S): Born in the night

Do you see what I see? Signs of resurrection today

Prayers of Intercession

Yours is the glory; risen, conquering Son.

ALL: Endless is the victory over death you've won.

Renewal of Scouting Promises

Offertory & Offertory Prayer

Communion offering will be for **Water Aid:**

Right now, millions of children around the world like Aynadis in Ethiopia don't have clean water to drink, decent toilets to use or good hygiene to protect themselves. Without these basics, breaking the cycle of poverty is just a dream.

But when you help WaterAid dig a well or install a tap in a community, you're changing the lives of children for the better. Your donation today, can help children to stay in school instead of wasting their precious childhood walking to collect water.

Communion Hymn 373 (R&S): Lord Jesus Christ

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Hymn 247 (R&S): Thine be the glory

Blessing

We've seen the good news – the tomb is empty, Christ is risen!

ALL: Hallelujah!

We've heard the good news – death is disrupted, God is on the loose!

ALL: Hallelujah!

We'll take the good news and share it far and wide.

ALL: Hallelujah! Christ is risen! Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be amongst us and remain with us this day and for ever more. **Amen.**

(Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring by JS Bach, played by organist Jonathan Heaton)

If you'd like to support the work of St Paul's but have no cash for the collection, you can donate by card via <https://bit.ly/ForStPauls> or our card reader on request. We're registered for gift aid – see leaflets at the exits. Most members have a regular standing order in place. Please talk to any of the elders for more details

Coming up...

There's an Easter Egg Hunt (fully booked) and a free Escape Room in the sanctuary. Try it if waiting for the Egg hunt; smaller children will need adult help. *See Sue for details.*

Next Sunday's worship will be led by Steve Tringham

- **Tuesday Guild:** 22nd April 10.15am, Craft & Natter.
- **House Group:** no group this week; next one on Thurs 1st May (morning group) and Weds 14th (evening group)
- **Guild AGM:** Tuesday 29th April 10.15am
- **Church Away Day:** Saturday 3rd May 10-3pm at Croham Road Baptist Church – lunch included!
- **New EXPLORE Group:** Suitable for anyone interested in finding out more about becoming members of St. Pauls, to be held at the church on Tuesdays 12noon–1.30pm.
April 29th / May 6th (later in the afternoon TBA) / May 20th / May 27th

Charity VE Day Afternoon Tea: 10th May, booking needed please see notice in the corridor

Prayer Time - Zoom - Every Saturday, 9am Meeting ID: 845 5391 2820 / Password: 1111 *If joining for the first time, please note participation varies. If you find you're on your own, please do not be put off! Others will be praying at this time but not able to join the Zoom. Please try another week.*

*For all activities please see website www.stpaulsurc.org.uk
All words and music used with permission - CCLi: 212639 /
CCL Streaming Licence*

