



St Paul's
**United
Reformed
Church**

Minister:
Rev. Martin Knight
currently unavailable

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Order of Service

Sunday 3rd October 2021



Harvest

Welcome to St Paul's!

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

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

Important notes:

- It is a joy to welcome you to this service!
St Paul's URC has a **full Covid-19 Risk Assessment**, which is helping to keep everyone 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**.
- The hymns and responses will continue to be in the **Order Sheet and on the TV, but feel free to pick up a Hymn book or Bible should you wish**.
- In line with the guidance from the URC, **we strongly recommend you continue to wear a mask indoors**, but we recognise this is now a matter of choice.
- **Offertory** – to reduce contact with physical notes and coins at this time, Standing Orders and bank transfers are preferred (please ask those who welcomed you at the door for more information), but there is also a labelled collection box at the exit, where you can place your offertory, including a credit/debit card reader.
- We pray that you will know God's presence as we worship – in church, at home, online, in the garden, at work or school, and in all places.

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

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.

Welcome & Notices

Call to Worship

This is the day that the Lord has made

Let us rejoice and be glad in it

This is none other than the house of God

And this is the gate of heaven.

Prayer

Hymn 48: Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer.

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| <p>1 Praise and thanksgiving,
Father, we offer,
For all things living
You have made good;
Harvest of sown fields,
Fruits of the orchard,
Hay from the mown
fields,
blossom and wood.</p> <p>3 Father, providing
Food for your children,
Your wisdom guiding
Teaches us share
One with another,
So that, rejoicing
With us, our brother
May know your care.</p> | <p>2 Lord, bless the labour
We bring to serve you,
That with our neighbour
we may be fed.
Sowing or tilling,
We would work with you;
Harvesting, milling,
For daily bread.</p> <p>4 Then will your blessing
Reach every people;
Each one confessing
Your gracious hand.
When you are reigning
No one will hunger:
Your love sustaining
Fruitful the land.</p> |
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Talk to Church Family

Bible Reading: Deuteronomy 16: 9-15; Leviticus 23: 22, Leviticus 25:1-7

9 “You shall count seven weeks; begin to count the seven weeks from the time you first put the sickle to the standing grain. 10 Then you shall keep the feast of weeks to the Lord your God with the tribute of a freewill offering from your hand, which you shall give as the Lord your God blesses you; 11 and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God, you and your son and your daughter, your manservant and your maidservant, the Levite who is within your towns, the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow who are among you, at the place which the Lord your God will choose, to make his name dwell there. 12 You shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt; and you shall be careful to observe these statutes.

The Festival of Booths Reviewed

13 “You shall keep the feast of booths seven days, when you make your ingathering from your threshing floor and your wine press; 14 you shall rejoice in your feast, you and your son and your daughter, your manservant and your maidservant, the Levite, the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow who are within your towns. 15 For seven days you shall keep the feast to the Lord your God at the place which the Lord will choose; because the Lord your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you will be altogether joyful.

²² “And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field to its very border, nor shall you gather the gleanings after

your harvest; you shall leave them for the poor and for the stranger: I am the LORD your God.”

25 The LORD said to Moses on Mount Sinai, ²“Say to the people of Israel, when you come into the land which I give you, the land shall keep a Sabbath to the LORD. ³Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather in its fruits; ⁴but in the seventh year there shall be a Sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a Sabbath to the LORD; you shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard. ⁵What grows of itself in your harvest you shall not reap, and the grapes of your undressed vine you shall not gather; it shall be a year of solemn rest for the land. ⁶The Sabbath of the land shall provide food for you, for yourself and for your male and female slaves and for your hired servant and the sojourner who lives with you; ⁷for your cattle also and for the beasts that are in your land all its yield shall be for food.

Thoughts on the readings

Blessing of harvest gifts.

Hymn 42: For the fruits of all creation (t: All through the night)

For the fruits of all creation,
thanks be to God;
for the gifts of every nation,
thanks be to God;
for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe-keeping,
thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour,

God's will is done;
in the help we give our neighbour,
God's will is done;
in our world-wide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God;
for the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God;
for the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

More about food

Prayer and 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

A story about harvest from the Bible:

Bible Reading: Ruth Chapter 2: 1-12 Ruth Meets Boaz

2 Now Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's, a man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. 2 And Ruth the Moabitess said to Na'omi, "Let me go to the field, and glean among the ears of grain after him in whose sight I shall find favour." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter." 3 So she set forth and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers; and she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech. 4 And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem; and he said to the reapers, "The Lord be with you!" And they answered, "The Lord bless you." 5 Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose maiden is this?" 6 And the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, "It is the Moabite maiden, who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. 7 She said, 'Pray, let me glean and gather among the sheaves after the reapers.' So she came, and she has continued from early morning until now, without resting even for a moment."

8 Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Now, listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my maidens. 9 Let your eyes be upon the field which they are reaping, and go after them. Have I not charged the young men not to molest you? And when you are thirsty, go to the vessels and drink what the young men have drawn." 10 Then she fell on her face, bowing to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favour in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, when I am a foreigner?" 11 But Boaz answered her, "All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a

people that you did not know before. 12 The Lord recompense you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!”

The story continues

Hymn 137: Hark the glad sound, the Saviour comes.

Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long;
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.

He comes, the prisoners to release,
in Satan’s bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

He comes, from ignorance and doubt
to clear the inward sight,
and on the darkness of the blind
to pour celestial light.

He comes the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
thy welcome shall proclaim,
and Heaven’s eternal arches ring
with thy beloved Name.

New Testament reading: Luke 14: 12-14

¹²He said also to the man who had invited him, “When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your kinsmen or rich neighbours, lest they also invite you in return, and you be repaid. ¹³But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

Prayers of intercession: When I say God in your mercy, please respond **Hear our prayer**

A hymn to lead us into Holy Communion: The people of God's promise (*tune The church's one foundation R&S 566*)

1. The people of God's promise
from Egypt now released,
each harvest brought their first fruits
to celebrate the feast.
They shared with priests and strangers,
acknowledging God's care;
their gifts just showed God's gifting,
God's goodness let them share.

2. Once, in the old remembrance,
the feast was all renewed,
the first fruits, freely offered,
with God's own self endued.
The Christ, the Son, the Saviour,
Himself became the gift,
the bread and wine, his body,
for all, both cure and feast.

3. Here's more than harvest gath'ring,
here's more than annual feast;
here God proclaims us welcome,
regardless of the cost.
Here we are guests invited,
here grace will challenge all
to live for God and justice,
responding to God's call. *John Campbell*

Holy Communion

Invitation

The institution

Taking

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.

Thanksgiving:

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.

Breaking of bread and blessing of the cup:

Distribution of bread and wine

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.

Prayer

Hymn 453: Let us talents and tongues employ

Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain: Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Christ is able to make us one,
at the table he set the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express.

Refrain

Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) everywhere!

Refrain

Blessing

Information & Notices

We extend a very warm welcome to you!

THANK YOU to Pat G-O and all those who contributed to the Harvest flower arrangements

United Prayer Time

for St Paul's and South Croydon United Church

Friday evenings at 7:30-8:00pm 'Zoom' Meeting ID: 845 5391 2820

Harvest Contributions - Sunday 3rd October

There is a communion collection as you leave worship for the Purley Food Hub and Nightwatch. Credit card payments can also be accepted. Thank you

St Paul's Book Club

Next meeting on Thursday 7th October, 12.30 at Knights Garden Centre, Woldingham. Book is The Card by Arnold Bennett. All welcome, even if you've not read it. For lifts contact Cathy Heath

Youth Council Table Top sale -16th October 9.30-12 noon

More details from Chris Dean 01883723081

*For future events and activities please see our website
www.stpaulsurc.org.uk*



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