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# Order of Service

*Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2024*



## *Picking up the Mantle*

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

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Today's service is being led by **Junior Church and Fran Boto**  
The Organ is played by: **Robert Cooper**

## 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](http://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.**

*Please use 'T' on your hearing aid for the hearing loop*

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### Welcome & Notices

#### Lighting the peace candle

#### Call to Worship

The mountain top     the shining face  
the glowing clothes  
the voice of God speaking from the cloud  
the commandments etched in stone

Sometimes God shows up     in ways we cannot deny  
in a place we can go     a light we can see

a voice we can hear   a stone we can touch

Sometimes

Sometimes   there is the veil  
the overshadowing, terrifying cloud  
the questions  
the appearing and disappearing  
the excitement   the wondering  
the silence

**Sometimes God shows up   in ways we cannot deny.  
Always God shows up   somehow.**

**So we have shown up   here, now  
May God give us eyes to see.**

We do not know what to say,  
**For we are afraid.**

But a cloud overshadows us,  
**And a voice comes to us—**

“This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!”  
**Lord, we listen today!**

**WE SING:** Lord, Jesus Christ 373 R&S

### **Prayers of Adoration, Confession and Assurance of Pardon**

#### ***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. Forever and ever. Amen

## **Dramatic Presentation of 2 Kings 2 1-12**

***Below is the Bible reading but our presentation will vary slightly. Please be prepared to be a prophet and to say the responses at the end of the passage here when prompted and to use the clean tea towel as a headdress to enter into the action.***

**2** Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup> Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they went down to Bethel. <sup>3</sup> The company of prophets<sup>Ⓜ</sup> who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?' And he said, 'Yes, I know; keep silent.'

<sup>4</sup> Elijah said to him, 'Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.' But he said, 'As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they came to Jericho. <sup>5</sup> The company of prophets<sup>Ⓜ</sup> who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to

him, 'Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?' And he answered, 'Yes, I know; be silent.'

<sup>6</sup> Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.' But he said, 'As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So the two of them went on. <sup>7</sup> Fifty men of the company of prophets<sup>sq</sup> also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup> Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

<sup>9</sup> When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.' Elisha said, 'Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.' <sup>10</sup> He responded, 'You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.' <sup>11</sup> As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. <sup>12</sup> Elisha kept watching and crying out, 'Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

**Pulpit side congregation: Did you know that God is going to take your master away from you today?**

**Lectern side congregation: Did you know that God is going to take your master away from you today?**

**Lectern side congregation: The spirit of Elijah lives in Elisha!**     *All applaud*

## *Reflection on the Mantle*

### ***Bible Reading: Mark 9 2-9***

<sup>2</sup> Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup> and his clothes became dazzling bright, such as no one<sup>[a]</sup> on earth could brighten them. <sup>4</sup> And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>6</sup> He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup>

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" <sup>8</sup> Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

<sup>9</sup> As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

### **WE SING:**

Lord, the light of your love is shining,  
in the midst of the darkness, shining:  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us;  
set us free by the truth you now bring us-  
shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine,  
fill this land with the Father's glory;  
blaze, Spirit, blaze,  
set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow,  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
send forth your word, Lord,  
And let there be light!*

Lord, I come to your awesome presence,  
from the shadows into your radiance;  
by your blood I may enter your brightness;  
search me, try me, consume all my darkness,  
shine on me, shine on me. *(Refrain)*

As we gaze on your kingly brightness  
so our faces display your likeness,  
ever changing from glory to glory;  
mirrored here, may our lives tell your story.  
Shine on me, shine on me. *(Refrain)*

**Blessing as children leave;**

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious  
to you  
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you  
peace.

**WE SING:** Let all mortal flesh keep silence 454 R&S

## *Reflection on the Mountain Top*

**WE SING:** At the name of Jesus 261 R&S

### Prayers for Others

**Offering for the work of this church**

**WE SING:** Be thou my vision 489 R&S

**Blessing and Sending Out.**

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## *Coming up .....*

**Please join us for refreshments in the large hall  
after the service**

**Tuesday Guild hosts a talk in Northern India by Sue  
Eardley, all welcome, 10.15 for 10.30**

**Next Sunday is 'Birthday Cake' Sunday, please also  
bring donations of non-perishable food and  
toiletries for the Purley Food Hub.**

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

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

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