



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

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

*Church Secretaries:*  
**Sue Eardley**

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# Order of Service

*Sunday 21st November 2021*



*Baptism...and Christ the King*

*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: **Mrs Beatrice Pollard**  
The Organ is played by: **Mr George Godsmark**

## 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**.
  - The hymns and responses will continue to be in the **Order Sheet, 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.
  - We pray that you will know God's presence as we worship – in church, at home, online, outdoors, at work, school; in all places.
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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.

**Our Communion Offering is in aid of the Leprosy Mission.** Please use the envelopes provided and complete the gift aid section if relevant

## Welcome & Notices, lighting of the peace candle

### Call to Worship

Give thanks to the God of heaven  
**For his love endures forever**

The stone which the builders rejected  
Has become the main corner-stone

**This is the work of the Lord;  
It is wonderful in our eyes.**

### Prayer of Approach

We turn to you, O God,  
**And find you already coming to meet us.**

You inhabit our hopes  
With creative love;

**You hold battered lives  
In scarred hands;**

You catch us up  
To dance towards fullness of life.

**We meet you, O God; life giver, heart changer, breath taker...  
Sustain us, heal us, renew us  
This day and for evermore.  
Amen**

## Hymn 274: God is love, his the care

1 God is love: his the care, tending each, ev'rywhere,  
God is love, all is there! Jesus came to show him,  
that we all might know him!

**Refrain: Sing aloud, loud, loud!  
sing aloud, loud, loud!  
God is good! God is truth!  
God is beauty! Praise him!**

2 Jesus came, lived and died  
for our sake, crucified  
Rose gain, glorified,  
He was born to save us  
by the truth he gave us.  
[Refrain]

3 None can see God above;  
Jesus shows how to love;  
thus may we Godward move,  
joined as sisters, bothers,  
finding him in others [Refrain]

4 To our Lord praise we sing,  
light and life, friend and King,  
coming down, love to bring,  
pattern for our duty,  
showing God in beauty.  
[Refrain]

## First reading: Acts 8: 26-40

<sup>26</sup> Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south<sup>[g]</sup> to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup> So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup> and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup> Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup> So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup> He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup> Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup> In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup> Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup> As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?”<sup>[h]</sup> <sup>38</sup> He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip<sup>[i]</sup> baptized him. <sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup> But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

**Hymn:** On a desert road by Gaza (tune; Mine eyes have seen the glory)

1. On a desert road by Gaza at the hottest time of day,  
Philip waited, as instructed, just to see who’d come that way.  
Soon an Ethiopian leader who had travelled far to pray  
came riding, riding by.

Surely nothing could prevent him; God’s own spirit must have sent  
him; love had purposed to present him to be baptised that day!

2. He was reading from the Bible what the prophets had to say,  
but he didn’t understand it in a Jesus kind of way.  
Philip joined him in his carriage, made the Gospel clear as day,

so this is what he said:

“Surely nothing can prevent me; God’s own Spirit must have sent me; love has purposed to present me to be baptised today!”

3. God has shown us in this story that his love is meant for all; not restricted or selective, but for all who hear his call. God loves ev’ry sort of person, be they tiny, big or tall; God calls us all today.

Surely nothing can prevent us; God’s own Spirit must have sent us; love has purposed to present us to share God’s grace today!

4. Now we’ve gathered and assembled and the love of God is here, to forgive us, heal us, bless us, overcome each fault and fear, ev’ry child we bless and welcome is to Jesus very dear: God loves us all today!

Surely nothing can prevent him, God’s own Spirit must have sent him, love has purposed to present him, we welcome him today!

John Campbell

## **Baptism of Laurie James Dean**

### **Prayers**

Water is poured into the font

### **Prayer**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.

In your goodness you give us water to sustain our life and renew the earth. May it be for Laurie the water of new birth.

**Blessed be God forever.**

### **The baptism**

After the baptismal party have made their promises, the congregation stand.

As a community of faith, representing the whole Church, do you welcome Laurie and promise to share with him what you yourselves have received: the gift of God's love revealed in Christ? Do you promise to pray for him, his home and his family and support them as you are able as ministers of Christ's love?

### **We do with God's help**

#### **Blessing:**

The Lord bless you and keep you

The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace

#### **Hymn 523:** Give me joy in my heart

1 Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising.

Give me joy in my heart, I pray.

Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising.

Keep me praising till the break of day.

**Refrain:** Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,  
sing hosanna to the King of kings!

Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,  
sing hosanna to the King!

2 Give me peace in my heart, keep me loving.

Give me peace in my heart, I pray.

Give me peace in my heart, keep me loving.

Keep me resting till the break of day. **[Refrain]**

3 Give me love in my heart, keep me serving.

Give me love in my heart, I pray.

Give me love in my heart, keep me serving.

Keep me serving till the break of day. **[Refrain]**

Junior Church Blessing to be said together:

**May God's blessing be with you as you go to learn more about him  
May he enfold you in his love and surround you with his care  
So that you may sing his song all the days of your life. Amen**

Junior church leave for their own activities.

## **Prayer of Confession**

Leader: Let us remember our own faults and failings in silence before God.

In the community of Christ's Church and in the presence of God's people  
I confess to God that I have sinned in thought, word and deed.  
I have not loved God, cared for God's world,  
Or respected God's people as I should.  
I own my responsibility and pray for God's pardon.

**All: May God forgive you, Christ befriend you,  
And the Spirit renew and change your life.**

Leader: Amen

**All: In the community of Christ's Church and in the presence of God's people  
We confess to God that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved God, cared for God's world,  
Or respected God's people as we should.  
We own our responsibility and pray for God's pardon.**

Leader: May God forgive you  
Christ befriend you,  
And the Spirit renew and change your life.

All: **Amen**



## Second Reading: John 18:33-37

<sup>33</sup> Then Pilate entered the headquarters<sup>[a]</sup> again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” <sup>35</sup> Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” <sup>36</sup> Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” <sup>37</sup> Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

## Third Reading: Revelation 1 :4b-8

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, 6 and made[e] us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen.

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

## Hymn 265: I cannot tell why he, whom angels worship

1 I cannot tell why He, whom angels worship,  
Should set His love upon the human race,  
Or why, as Shepherd, He should seek the wand'ers,  
To bring them back, within the fold of grace.  
But this I know, that He was born of Mary,  
When Bethl'hem's manger was His only home,  
And that He lived at Nazareth and laboured,  
And so the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is come.

2 I cannot tell how silently He suffered,  
As with His peace He graced this place of tears,  
Or how His heart upon the Cross was broken,  
The crown of pain to three and thirty years.  
But this I know, He heals the broken-hearted,  
And stays our sin, and calms our lurking fear,  
And lifts the burden from the heavy laden,  
For yet the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is here.

3 I cannot tell how He will win the nations,  
How He will claim His earthly heritage,  
How satisfy the needs and aspirations  
Of east and west, of sinner and of sage.  
But this I know, all flesh shall see His glory,  
And He shall reap the harvest He has sown,  
And some glad day His sun shall shine in splendour  
When He the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is known.

4 I cannot tell how all the lands shall worship,  
When, at His bidding, every storm is stilled,  
Or who can say how great the jubilation  
When all the hearts of men with love are filled.  
But this I know, the skies will thrill with rapture,

And myriad, myriad human voices sing,  
And earth to heaven, and heaven to earth, will answer:  
At last the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is King.

## Sermon

### Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

During the prayers of intercession, when the leader says: Lord in your mercy, please respond: **hear our prayer.**

Lord in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

### Hymn 262: Crown him with many crowns

1 Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne.  
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy chosen king through all eternity.

2 Crown Him the son of God, before the worlds began  
and ye, who tread where he hath trod crown him the son of man  
who every grief hath known that wrings the human breast  
and takes and bears them for his own that all in him may rest.

3 Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,  
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save;  
his glories now we sing who died and rose on high,  
who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

4 Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,  
rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified;  
All hail, Redeemer, hail! for thou hast died for me;  
thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.

### Blessing:

# Information & Notices

*We extend a very warm welcome to you!*

## 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

## The Pauline

*Copy date is today – please send any articles snippets or news to Pat Granville Overton as soon as possible.*

## Damascus to Rome – Life and legacy of St Paul

*A series of autumn discussion and study groups based on the banners in St Paul's URC continued on Thursday 23 November at 2.30 in the church. See website, back of the Pauline or corridor notice board for details*

## Church Meeting - after the service

*All are welcome in the large hall for the meeting but only members can vote.*

*For future events and activities please see our website  
[www.stpaulsurc.org.uk](http://www.stpaulsurc.org.uk)*



**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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