



**St Paul's
United
Reformed
Church**

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Order of Service

Sunday 23rd April 2023



Promise

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

Today's service is being led by: **John Ponsford**
The Organ is played by: **Pam Vaughn**

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.

Welcome & Notices

Call to Worship

Lighting the peace candle

Hymn 663: Love divine

The Colours will be received during the first hymn.

Prayers of approach and confession

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.

Reading: Luke 24:13-21

¹³Now on that same day two of them [Jesus' friends] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all the things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognising him. ¹⁷And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.

Talk: broken promises?

Hymn 549: One more step along the world I go

Junior Church blessing

**All - 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

The Junior Church leave for their activities

Reading: Luke 24:21-27

[Cleopas is still talking about what happened to Jesus]

It is now the third day since these things took place.

²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” ²⁵Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?”

²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he

interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

Talk: getting the picture

Hymn 90: O Lord, all the world belongs to you

Renewal of promises

Hymn

1. Now as I start upon my chosen way,
In all I do, my thoughts, my work, my play;
Grant as I Promise, Courage, Lord for me
To be the best, the Best that I can be.

2. Help me to keep my Honour shining bright
May I be loyal in the hardest fight;
Let me be able for my task and then
To earn a place among my fellow men.

3. Open mine eyes to see things as I should,
That I may do my daily turn of good
Let me be ready, waiting for each need
To keep me clean in thought and word and deed.

4. So as I journey on my chosen way,
In all I do, my thoughts, my work, my play,
Grant as I Promise, Courage, Lord for me

To be the best, the Best that I can be.

Talk: is that it?

Reading: Luke 24:28-35

²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, Jesus walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.

³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognised him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!"

³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Offering - with prayer and dedication

Prayers of intercession

Hymn 530: Living God, your joyful Spirit

The blessing

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

All: In the name of Christ, amen.

The National Anthem (*no. 762 in the hymn book*)

The Colours are returned.

Coming up...

Prayers for Peace - *The Sanctuary* **Tuesdays 12-1pm**

United Prayer Time – Zoom - *St Paul's & South Croydon*
United Church Meeting ID: 845 5391 2820 **Every Friday, 6pm**

NEXT SUNDAY – *Spring Lunch after worship, in aid of Christian Aid. Please let Fran know asap if you are coming. Franboto@aol.com 07969 173457*

Tuesday Guild – *Annual General Meeting Tuesday 25th April*
Outing to Watt Artists Gallery and Village 2nd May – please confirm to Christine asap if you are coming, Transport available.

St Paul's Book Club – *currently reading the The Various Haunts of Men by Susan Hill and will meet 11th May at Coach house Café- Coombe Wood Gardens 12.30pm for snacks/lunch and time to discuss the book and plenty of other things!*

Christian Aid Week 14-20 May - *volunteers requested to help collect at South Croydon station in the morning and evening rush hours. Please see Sue If you can help, thank you*

For all future events and activities please see our website

Croham Park Avenue, South Croydon, CR2 7HF www.stpaulsurc.org.uk

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