



**St Paul's
United
Reformed
Church**

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Order of Service

Sunday 17th December 2023



God with Us

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

Today's service is being led by **Junior Church**
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.**

Welcome & Notices

Lighting the peace candle

Call to Worship

Lighting the Advent wreath and Advent Hymn

Joy 'Gaudete Sunday'

(Two candles are lit – one remains unlit)

Leader: A candle burns,

the third marker of our Advent journey.

As we continue, may we travel expectantly, with the joy of the Shepherd's.

As we continue,

All: GOD, EMMANUEL, GUIDE OUR FOOTSTEPS

Sing: To our Lord praise we sing –

light and life, friend and King

coming down joy to bring,

pattern for our duty,

showing God in beauty

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!

Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!

When he comes,

when he comes,

who will make him welcome?

(Tune: 'Theodoric' / 274 Rejoice & Sing)

Introduction; Family Likeness

Hymn; O Little Town of Bethlehem 145

1. O little town of Bethlehem,

how still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep

the silent stars go by.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

2. For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.

O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth.

3. How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive Him still,
the dear Christ enters in

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in;
be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels,
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!

The Nativity Part 1

Little Donkey

Little donkey, little donkey
On the dusty road
Gotta keep on plodding onward
With your precious load
Been a long time little donkey
Through the winters night
Don't give up now little donkey
Bethlehem's in sight

Ring out those bells tonight, Bethlehem, Bethlehem,
Follow that star tonight, Bethlehem, Bethlehem.

Little donkey, little donkey, had a heavy day.
Little donkey, carry Mary safely on her way.

The Nativity Part 2

Hymn; Away in a Manger 146

Prayers for Others

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.

Offertory and Offertory Prayer

The Nativity Part 3

Hymn Ding Dong Merrily on High

1 Ding dong, merrily on high!
In heav'n the bells are ringing;
ding dong, verily the sky
is riv'n with angel singing.
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

2 E'en so here below, below,
let steeple bells be swungen,
And i-o, i-o, i-o,
by priest and people sungen.
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

3 Pray ye dutifully prime
your matin chime, ye ringers;
may ye beautifully rhyme
your evetime song, ye singers.
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!
Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

Prayer, Blessing, Surprise

Coming up

Come along for refreshments and birthday cake in the large hall after the service

Please collect you Christmas Cards from the large hall. Please also take for those members not here whom you might see in the next few days

Next Sunday 24th morning worship is at South Croydon United Church, Aberdeen Road from 10.30am. St Paul's will be open for the evening Carol Service at 6.30pm followed by mince pies and mulled wine (plus other refreshments)

**Christmas Day Monday 25th 10am - Joint Worship at St Paul's with SCUC friends.
Communion offering in aid of St Christopher's Hospice.**