



St Paul's
**United
Reformed
Church**

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Order of Service

Sunday 27 November 2022



First Sunday in Advent

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: **John Hankin**

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 first Advent candle

Hope for all God's people

(One candle is lit)

Leader: *We light this candle for all God's people,
struggling to be bearers of hope
in a troubled world.*

All: **GOD, AS WE WAIT FOR YOUR PROMISE,
GIVE LIGHT, GIVE HOPE**

Sing: **Advent candles tell their story
as we watch and pray,
longing for the Day of Glory,
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness
changed for gladness
on that day.**
(Tune: 'Angel Voices')

Hymn 663: Love divine

Prayer of Praise 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.

Talk: Wake up!

Hymn: 141 Make way, make way

Junior Church blessing (Junior Church comes out to the front)

Leader: Whether we are together or apart we are one in God's spirit

Junior Church: The Lord bless us and keep us

All: The Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us. The Lord lift up his countenance upon us and give us peace.

(Junior Church leaves for its own activities)

Readings: Isaiah 2: 1-5

Matthew 24: 36-44

The Future House of God

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come
the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

The Necessity for Watchfulness

³⁶ 'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of

Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

Hymn 130: Behold the mountain of the Lord

Sermon Time and time again

Hymn 586: All my hope on God is founded

Prayers of intercession

Offering and prayer of dedication

Hymn 603: Lord, for the years

Blessing

Today is the start of Advent!

From today we are Bringing Advent to life at St Paul's. A chance to share our excitement at Jesus' birth with our friends, family, neighbours, work and schoolfriends - everyone whom we come into contact with.

This week: Collect a pack with a candle, prompt card and a poster and think where they could be displayed for others to see – in your porch, your car, your desk, on Teams. Smile and wish people a Happy Advent! Maybe share your excitement about Christmas, that God is with us all, whatever our situation, and about St Paul's and our welcome.

Next week we'll reflect a little on what your experience was in talking to people. Don't worry if you don't feel comfortable having "faith conversations", just see what happens! There are more details in the pack to encourage you through the week.



We extend a very warm welcome to you!

Prayer Time Fridays at 6-6.30pm 'Zoom' ID: 845 5391 2820.

Also open to pray for peace – Tuesdays 12-1pm WarmSpace open to all on Thursdays 3.30-6.30pm

Tuesday Guild meeting – Oberammergau with Eleanor Redshaw and Sue Eardley from 10.15 -11.30am

Christmas events leaflets – please help with distributing the leaflets about our Christmas services. There are packs available in church and at coffee for collection with specific roads to cover. Or see pat GO or Sue for details.

Next Sunday – Communion with collection in aid of Christians Against Poverty. Debt and poverty drain hope from people's lives. CAPUK want to put an end to UK poverty in partnership with local churches. They run help and advice lines, job clubs,

For future events and activities please see our website

St Paul's United Reformed Church

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