



**St Paul's
United
Reformed
Church**

Minister: **Revd. Martin Knight**
07392 463961 minister1@stpaulsurc.org.uk

Church Secretaries: **Sue Eardley**
07971 068887 Secretary@StpaulsURC.org.uk
Bea Pollard
020 8657 0162 ronandbea@btinternet.com

Order of Service

Sunday 31st December 2023



Christingle

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

Today's service is being led by **Bea Pollard**
The Organ is played by: **Ron and the Hymnal**

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

Call to Worship

Lighting the Christmas ring, and prayer

We have lit these candles to celebrate the light of your presence among us.

Help us to shine with your light. Amen

Let us open our service with a song of joy:

Hymn 159: Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Prayers of 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,
for ever and ever. Amen

Offering for the work of the church

**Lord, as we bring our gifts at this time of giving,
so also we bring ourselves.**

**Help us to be generous, and to pass on to others
the love that we have received from you.**

Amen.

Hymn 135: Joy to the World

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 148

Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels;

praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon;

praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens,

and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for he commanded and they were created.

He established them for ever and ever;

he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the LORD from the earth,

you sea monsters and all deeps,

fire and hail, snow and frost,

stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Mountains and all hills,

fruit trees and all cedars!

Wild animals and all cattle,

creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
Young men and women alike,
old and young together!
Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.

Hymn 146: Away in a Manger

New Testament reading: Luke 2: 22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death

before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but

worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Hymn 167: Once in Royal David's City

The Wicked Fairy at the Manger *U.A. Fanthorpe*

Hymn 170: What child is this?

Song: Will you come and see the light? *tune R&S 558*

Will you come and see the light from the stable door?

It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.

It will be your guiding star, it will show you who you are.

Will you hide or decide to meet the light.

Will you step into the light that can free the slave?
It will stand for what is right, it will heal and save.
By the pyramids of greed, there's a longing to be
freed.

Will you hide or decide to meet the light?

Will you join the hope alight in a young girl's eyes
Of the mighty put to flight by a baby's cries?
When the lowest and the least are the foremost at
the feast,

Will you hide or decide to meet the light?

Will you travel by the light of the babe new born?
In the candle lit at night there's a gleam of dawn,
And the darkness all about is too dim to put it out:
Will you hide or decide to meet the light?

Brian Wren

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Hymn: The First Nowell

The first Nowell the angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star,
Shining in the east beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.

And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.

Then entered in those wise men three,
Full reverently upon their knee,
And offered there in his presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our Heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of naught,
And with his blood us all hath bought.

Candles, and lighting of candles.

Christingle song (tune Rejoice and Sing 583)

O round as the world is the orange you give us!
And happy are they who to Jesus belong
So let the world know as we join in Christingle,
That Jesus, the Hope of the world is our song.

O bright is the flame of the candle you give us!
And happy are they who to Jesus belong:
So let the world know as we join in Christingle
That Jesus, the Light of the world is our song.

When homeward we go, we must take Jesus with us
Or happy are they who to Jesus belong:
So let the world know, as we join in Christingle,
That Jesus the Saviour of all is our song.

Fred Pratt Green

Blessing



JOIN US FOR A
NEW YEAR'S QUIZ!

SATURDAY 6TH JAN 2024
@ 7PM

St Paul's URC, Croham Park Ave, CR2 7HF
Tickets £12 per person &
includes Fish & Chips Supper

Email secretary@stpaulsurc.org.uk to book your *plai*ce!

Please book asap – we need numbers by Wednesday! There is a veggie burger and chips for £12, Sausage and chips for £10 or fish and chips for £12. Please pay in cash or card to Sue, secretary@stpaulsurc.org.uk or transfer to church bank account

Sort code: 60 19 34 - Account number:41239482
Account name :St Paul's United Reformed Church

Coming up

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

Do join us at the Quiz Night next Saturday 6th January – see overleaf for details

Next Sunday 7th January is communion Sunday with a collection in aid of Freedom from Torture charity as well as for our own church funds. Please give what you are able.

The Book club is reading “Lessons in Chemistry” by Bonnie Garmus, Next meeting to discuss it is on 11th January, venue details to follow.

There is a Church meeting on 28th January 11.50am

Wishing everyone a Happy New year

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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