

# Order of Service

*Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025*



**You are all one in Christ**  
**(Galatians 3:28)**

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

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Today's service is being led by:  
**Professor the Revd. Canon Peter Galloway**  
The organ is played by: **Simon Gregory**

## 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](http://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.*

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### Welcome & Notices

### Lighting of Peace Candle

### Call to Worship

**Hymn 274 (R&S):** God is Love, his the care (*Theodoric*)

### Prayers of Adoration, Confession & 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**

## Talk/Presentation about Christian Aid

**Hymn 199 (R&S):** Jesus the Lord says I am the bread  
(*Yisu ne Kaha*)

## The Grace

**All:** May 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.**

*Junior Church leaves for their own activities*

## Reading: Acts of the Apostles 11: 1-18

**11** Now the apostles and the believers<sup>[a]</sup> who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. <sup>2</sup> So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers<sup>[b]</sup> criticized him, <sup>3</sup> saying, ‘Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?’ <sup>4</sup> Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, <sup>5</sup> ‘I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. <sup>6</sup> As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup> I also heard a voice saying to me, “Get up, Peter; kill and eat.”

<sup>8</sup> But I replied, “By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.” <sup>9</sup> But a second time the voice answered from heaven, “What God has made clean, you must not call profane.” <sup>10</sup> This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. <sup>11</sup> At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. <sup>12</sup> The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us.<sup>[c]</sup> These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. <sup>13</sup> He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, “Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup> he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.”

<sup>15</sup> And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup> And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, “John baptized with water, but

you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” <sup>17</sup> If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?’ <sup>18</sup> When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, ‘Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.’

**Hymn 647 (R&S):** In Christ there is no East of West  
(*Tune: Kilmarnock to be found at 312*)

**Reading:** John 15: 1-17

**15** ‘I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. <sup>2</sup> He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes<sup>[a]</sup> to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> You have already been cleansed<sup>[b]</sup> by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

<sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become<sup>[c]</sup> my disciples. <sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have said these

things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup> 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> I do not call you servants<sup>[d]</sup> any longer, because the servant<sup>[e]</sup> does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup> I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

**Sermon:** You are all one in Christ

**Hymn 308 & 309 (R&S):** Spirit of the Living God

**Prayers for others**

**Offertory and Offertory Prayer**

**Hymn 95 (R&S):** God is love, let heaven adore him  
(*Blaenwern*)

**Blessing and Dismissal**

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If you'd like to support the work of St Paul's but have no cash for the collection, you can donate by card via <https://bit.ly/ForStPauls> or our card reader on request. We're registered for gift aid – see leaflets at the exits. Most members have a regular standing order in place. Please talk to any of the elders for more details.

*Coming up...*



*After today's service, please join us at lunch for Christian Aid, which will be soup, bread and cheese. There will be a quiz and a further opportunity to hear about their work.*

**Next Sunday's Songs of Praise service will be led by Helen Dean,** followed by Cake Sunday



Helen is still seeking favourite hymns with a little note about why they are significant to you. You can either present the hymn or your reasons can be read out. Please see Helen, Whatsapp or email her on

[helencdean1@outlook.com](mailto:helencdean1@outlook.com)

**Church Meeting next Sunday** after cake – all welcome

**EXPLORE Group:** Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> 4.30pm, St. Paul's For anyone interested in finding out more about joining St. Paul's and newish members might find it useful too.

**Worship and Discipleship group meet:** Sunday 25th May 9.00am, with invitation to join for prayer at 09.45.

**Community Garden** – Eleanor is seeking help with getting the garden into shape before our London in Bloom entry is judged on 17<sup>th</sup> June – please get in touch if you are interested

## Prayer Time - Zoom - Every Saturday, 9am

'Zoom' Meeting ID: 845 5391 2820 / Password: 1111

*If joining for the first time, please note that participation varies. If you find yourself on your own, please do not be put off! Others will be praying at this time but not able to join the Zoom. Please try another week. Thank you for joining St Paul's prayer life.*

## Walking. Praying. Discovering. Fundraising



## Join us on 21 June!!

## 10-4pm

**Churches in South Croydon are open for discovery on a walking route that takes in local attractions and history...**

**Visit East Croydon URC, St Matthew's C of E, St Paul's URC, St Peter's C of E, St George's Waddon, St Andrew's Croydon, South Croydon United Church**

### MORE INFO

- 7 mile route (with optional short cuts and bus rides)
- Maps & instructions provided
- Start where you like!
- Refreshments and toilets in all churches
- Learn about Christian Aid's work



**Contact Fran Boto, Elder at St. Paul's  
URC [franboto@aol.com](mailto:franboto@aol.com) or visit  
[www.stpaulsurc.org.uk](http://www.stpaulsurc.org.uk)**



*For all future events and activities please see our website*



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[www.stpaulsurc.org.uk](http://www.stpaulsurc.org.uk)

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