



St Paul's
**United
Reformed
Church**

Minister:
Rev. Martin Knight
Currently unavailable

Church Secretaries:
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Bea Pollard

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Order of Service

Christmas Eve 2021



Welcome to St Paul's!

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

This evening's service is being led by **Fran Boto** and **Helen Dean**
The Organ is played by: **Robert Cooper**

Important notes:

- It is a joy to welcome you to this service!
St Paul's URC has a **full Covid-19 Risk Assessment**, which is helping to keep everyone safe, so please follow the notices and advice you are given in church.
 - Please continue to **maintain social distancing** where possible and we encourage people to **wash and sanitise their hands regularly**.
 - The hymns and responses are in this Order Sheet, **but feel free to pick up a Hymn book or Bible should you wish**.
 - In line with the new government guidance, you are required to wear a face covering indoors unless exempt. Please bear with one another to keep us all safe.
 - **Offertory** –we circulate the collection bag for contributions to St Christopher's Hospice; if you prefer to donate by credit card there is a reader at the entrance, please ask one of our welcomers.
 - We pray that you will know God's presence as we worship – in church, at home, online, outdoor, at work or school, and in all places.
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We extend a very warm welcome to you. 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

You are welcome to use the 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.

Carol: Once in Royal David's City. 1st verse solo

1 Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

2 He came down to earth from heaven,
who is God and Lord of all;
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor, and mean, and lowly
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

3 And he is our childhood's pattern,
day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak and helpless
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.

4 Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him, but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
for he leads his people on
to the place where he is gone.

Welcome & Notices

Call to Worship

First Reading - Isaiah Ch 9 vv 2, 6, 9
Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold.

Carol: O Little Town of Bethlehem
(peace light is brought to the front)

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

2 O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
goodwill and peace on earth.
For Christ is born of Mary;
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.

3 How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven:
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, Immanuel.

2nd Reading - Isaiah Ch 11 vv 1-9
The peace of Christ is foreshown.

Explanation of the Peace Light

3rd Reading - Luke Ch 1 26-38
The Angel appears to Mary

Carol: The Angel Gabriel from heaven came

1 The Angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
'All Hail', said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favoured lady,' *Gloria!*

2 For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honour thee,
Thy Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold;
Most highly favoured lady, *Gloria!*

3 Then gently Mary meekly bowed her head,
'To me be as it pleaseth God', she said,
'my soul shall laud and magnify his holy name'.
Most highly favoured lady. *Gloria!*

4 Of her, Immanuel the Christ was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say
'Most highly favoured lady' *Gloria!*

4th Reading - Luke Ch 2 vv 1-7

The birth of Jesus

Carol: Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;

Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing. (x3)

2 Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy. (x3)

3 He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love. (x3)

5th Reading - Luke Ch 2 vv 8-16

The shepherds go to the manger.

Carol: God rest ye Merry Gentlemen.

1 God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Saviour was born on upon this day,
To save us all from Satan's power
when we were gone astray:

*Refrain: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy!
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

2 From God our heavenly Father a blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name;
Refrain

3 And when to Bethlehem they came,
whereat this infant lay,
They found him in a manger, where oxen feed on hay;
His mother Mary kneeling unto the Lord did pray:

Refrain

4 Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas all anger should efface:

Refrain

6th Reading - Matthew Ch 2 vv 1-11

The wise men are led by a star to Jesus.

Carol: O Come all Ye Faithful

(Donations for the work of St Christopher's hospice will be received during this hymn)

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him born the King of angels;

*Refrain: O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

2 God of God, light of light,
Lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created;

Refrain

3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above,
'Glory to God in the highest'

Refrain

Offertory prayer

Reflection - 'HOLY'

Prayers of Intercession *(lights will be dimmed)*

'O Holy Night' Deborah Akin and Sandie Williams

'Silent Night'

(congregational candles lit)

7th Reading - John Chapter 1 vv 1-14

Carol: Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations rise;
join the triumph of the skies,

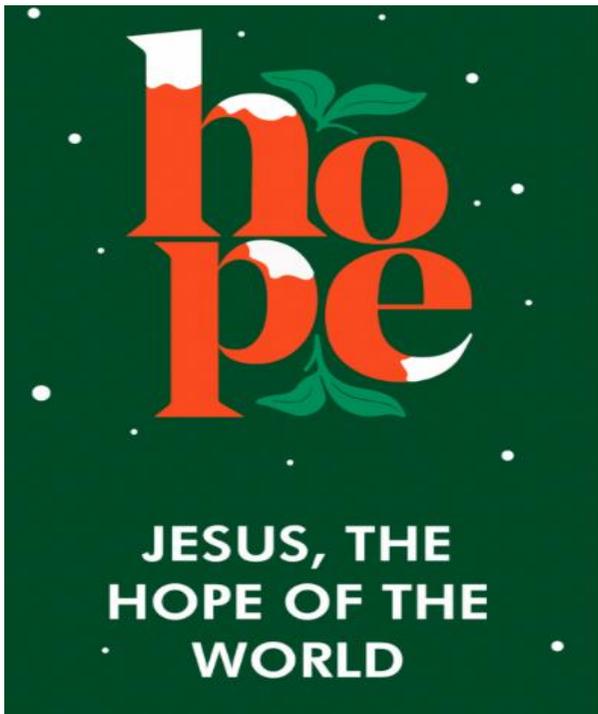
with the angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem:
*Refrain: - Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

Christ by highest heaven adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb;
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel;
Refrain

Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings;
Mild he lays his glory by, born
that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.
Refrain

Blessing

We invite you to join us for refreshments in our (very well ventilated) large hall



St Christopher's offers world class palliative and end of life care to everyone who needs it, whenever or wherever that may be. The hospice is a friendly, vibrant place, with excellent medical and nursing care, devoted to doing their best for patients and families, plus practical, emotional and spiritual support to over 7,500 people in the local area, most of whom are helped to continue living at home. "We are a place for everyone."

St Christopher's relies on donations to care for patients and those close to them. Please help by contributing to the offering to raise funds to continue this important work.

<https://www.stchristophers.org.uk/>

We extend a very warm welcome to you!

United Prayer Time Fridays at 7:30-8pm

for St Paul's and South Croydon United Church

'Zoom' Meeting ID: 845 5391 2820

The Pauline - *Is our church magazine full of news and events – pick one up at the entrances to the church*

Next Sunday – *There is no service on Sunday 26th December. On Sunday 2nd January Bea Pollard will be leading worship with a communion service from 10.30am. Refreshments are available after the service unless there are covid restrictions in place. The communion offering will be in aid of Medicins Sans Frontieres*

Book Club -*Is reading Piranesu by Susanna Clark Discussion is on Thursday 6 Jan 12.30-2pm, Coach House Café, Coombe Lane.*

Junior church and youth groups – *children are welcome at St Paul's. Our crèche and junior church meet alongside worship at 10.30. For more details of Beavers, Cubs Scouts and Explorer Scouts for boys and girls please contact Chris Dean tinkerscorner@aol.com*

Tuesday morning 'Guild' – *we aim to restart our weekly 10.30-noon group with speakers and refreshments, from 4th January but are awaiting Government and URC Covid guidance*

*For all events and activities please see our website
www.stpaulsurc.org.uk*



St Paul's United Reformed Church

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