



St Paul's
**United
Reformed
Church**

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Order of Service

Sunday 26 June 2022



No Turning Back!

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

Today's service is being led by: **Elaine Leck**
The Organ is played by: **Mrs 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.**

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

Lighting the peace candle

Call to Worship: (Psalm 77)

I cried out to God for help;
I cried out to God to hear me.

When I was in distress, I sought the Lord;

**at night I stretched out untiring hands,
and I would not be comforted.**

Then I thought, "To this I will appeal:

the years when the Most High stretched out his right hand.

I will remember the deeds of the Lord;

yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.

I will consider all your works

and meditate on all your mighty deeds."

Your ways, God, are holy.

What god is as great as our God?

You are the God who performs miracles;

you display your power among the peoples.

**With your mighty arm you redeemed your people,
the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.**

You led your people like a flock

by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

Hymn: 117 O Lord my God

Prayer of Praise, Confession and Assurance

At this moment in our lives;

At this junction on our journey,

We heed your call, O God.

WE GATHER AS YOUR PEOPLE,

LOOKING FOR NEW LIFE FOR OUR LIFE.

We gather as your imperfect children,

aware of our moments of selfishness and ambition,

our tendency for cynicism and fear,

our times of confusion and doubt.

YET YOUR GRACE ABOUND, O LORD.

YOUR EVERLASTING LOVE AWAITS US.

So, we come as we are.

With our shortcomings, yes, but also with our gifts,
remembering that we are created and re-
created in your image.

**WE COME, AND YOUR WORD NOURISHES US.
YOUR SPIRIT CALLS US.**

We come desiring to walk your ways of justice and integrity
to hear your words of wisdom and renewal,

WE COME TO EXTEND, LIKE YOURS, OUR OPEN HANDS.

As we gather, may our worship renew us in the audacity...

**TO FOLLOW YOU AND LOVE YOU, EVERY DAY,
WHEREVER YOU CALL US.**

**In the community of Christ's church and in the presence of Go
d's people, we confess to God that we have sinned in
thought, word and deed. We have not loved God, cared
for God's world, or respected God's people as we should.
We own our responsibility and pray for God's pardon.**

May God forgive us, Christ befriend us,
and the Spirit renew and change our lives. **Amen.**

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.

Hymn: Be still for the presence of the Lord

1 Be still for the presence of the Lord
The Holy one is here
Come bow before him now
In reverence and fear
In Him no sin is found
We stand on Holy ground
Be still for the presence of the
Lord
The Holy one is here.

2 Be still for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around
He burns with Holy fire
With splendour He is crowned
How awesome is the sight
Our radiant King of light
Be still for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around.

3 Be still for the power of the
Lord
Is moving in this place
He comes to cleanse and heal
To minister His grace
No work too hard for Him
In faith receive from Him
Be still for the power of the Lord
Is moving in this place.

David Evans

Talk: Introduction to the theme

Hymn: 523 Give me joy in my heart keep me praising

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now and forever.
Amen

We bless the children as they leave for their activities

Reading 2 Kings 2:1-15 Elijah Ascends to Heaven

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here, for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; keep silent."

Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives and as you yourself

live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” He responded, “You have asked a hard thing, yet if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck the water. He said, “Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah? Where is he?” He struck the water again, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha crossed over.

When the company of prophets who were at Jericho saw him at a distance, they declared, “The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.” They came to meet him and bowed to the ground before him.

Reading: Luke 9:51-62

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Hymn: 558 Will you come and follow me

Sermon

Prayers for others

Offering and prayer of dedication

Hymn: 489 Be thou my vision

Sending out and blessing