



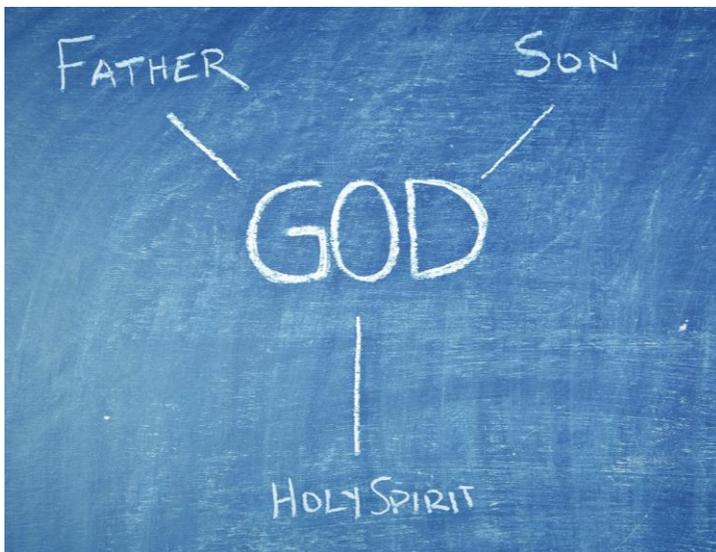
St Paul's
**United
Reformed
Church**

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Order of Service

Sunday 30th May 2021



Welcome to St Paul's!

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

This morning's service is being led by: **Carol Clack**
The Organ is played by: **Edward Rook**

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.
 - As you can see, we are using printed **Order sheets rather than Hymn books and bibles**. These Orders have been quarantined for 72hrs before the service. All hymns will also appear on the TV screen.
 - **Offertory** – to reduce contact with physical notes and coins at this time, Standing Orders and bank transfers are preferred, but there is also a labelled collection box at the side, where you can place your offertory.
 - Until government guidance changes, there will be **no congregational singing** during our services, but we will find other creative ways of using music!
 - Our service will be **broadcast via zoom** for folk at home.
 - We pray that you will know God's presence as we worship – in church, online, at home, at work or school, and in all places.
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Church Notices

Call to Worship

MUSIC for reflection: 'Indescribable'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8FIIchSJoOA>

From the highest of heights to the depths of the sea
creation's revealing Your majesty.

From the colours of fall to the fragrance of spring
every creature unique in the song that it sings;

All exclaiming

*Indescribable, uncontainable
you placed the stars in the sky
and You know them by name*

You are amazing, God.

*All powerful, untameable
Awestruck we fall to our knees
as we humbly proclaim
you are amazing, God.*

Who has told every lightning bolt where it should go
or seen heavenly storehouses laden with snow.

Who imagined the sun and gives source to its light
yet, conceals it to bring us the coolness of night?

None can fathom

Indescribable, uncontainable...

Words © Chris Tomlin

Prayers of Approach & Confession

The Lord's Prayer

*...God of truth, we bring to you our sorrow for our sins.
For seeking earthly absolutes and not eternal mysteries:*

WE ARE TRULY SORRY.

*For rooting ourselves in the finite and not nurturing the infinite
within:*

WE ARE TRULY SORRY.

*For saying 'I' much more than 'we' and for damaging
relationships:*

WE ARE TRULY SORRY.

Forgive us and strengthen us, we pray.

FOR WE ARE TRULY SORRY.

AMEN.

Reading: Isaiah 6: 1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said:

'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.'

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!'

⁶ Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: 'Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.' ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'

God – 3 in 1

MUSIC for reflection: 'Meekness and Majesty'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qXggFYQQTJ0>

Meekness and majesty manhood and deity
In perfect harmony the Man who is God
Lord of eternity dwells in humanity
Kneels in humility and washes our feet
*O what a mystery meekness and majesty
Bow down and worship for this is your God
This is your God*

Father's pure radiance perfect in innocence
Yet learns obedience to death on a cross
Suffering to give us life, conquering through sacrifice
And as they crucify prays Father forgive
O what a mystery...

Wisdom unsearchable God the invisible
Love indestructible in frailty appears
Lord of infinity stooping so tenderly
Lifts our humanity to the heights of His throne
O what a mystery...

Words© Graham Kendrick

Reading: John 3: 1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' ³Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' ⁴Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' ⁵Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' ⁹Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' ¹⁰Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ 'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

God – Mysterious and yet so close

Prayers of Intercession

MUSIC for reflection: 'And can it be'

And can it be that I should gain
an interest in the Saviour's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain;
for me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
*Amazing love! How can it be
that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?*

'Tis mystery all: the Immortal dies!
Who can explore His strange design?
In vain the first-born seraph tries
to sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
let angel-minds inquire no more.
*'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
let angel-minds inquire no more.*

He left His Father's throne above—
so free, so infinite his grace—
emptied Himself of all but love,
and bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
for, O my God, it found out me!
*'Tis mercy all, immense and free,
for, O my God, it found out me!*

Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
fast bound in sin and nature's night;
thine eye diffused a quickening ray—
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
my chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

*My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.*

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ my own.

*Bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ my own.*

Words: Charles Wesley

Sending Out & Blessing



St Paul's United Reformed Church

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