



**St Paul's  
United  
Reformed  
Church**

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# Order of Service

*Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2023*



Painting by Ivan Kramskoy

*Whose are you?*

*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: **Fran Boto**  
The Organ is played by: **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](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 the peace candle

### A prayer for Ukraine from the Methodist Church

God of peace and love, we turn to you and open our hearts again for the people of Ukraine as we mark the first anniversary of the war. We confess that we only know a little of the past and current suffering as we watch and listen to the news from

the comfort of our homes. Yet, we dare to pray for the future and ask that you work among us to bring about a lasting peace for the Ukrainian people. And, as we do, we ask you to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable - even us - as we pray in the Name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

**Amen.**

## **Call to Worship**

**Hymn:** Lead us Heavenly Father Lead us 543

## **Prayer of Approach, confession and Words of Forgiveness**

**God says, See, I am making all things new.**

*Rev 21:5*

**If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.**

*2 Cor 5:17*

**In Christ, God was reconciling the world.**

*2 Cor 5:19*

Through Christ all our sins are forgiven.

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

## 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.

### First Reading

#### Genesis 2:15-17 and 3 1-7 (p. 2)

<sup>15</sup> The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

**3** Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; <sup>3</sup> but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of

the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.”<sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not die;<sup>5</sup> for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God,<sup>[a]</sup> knowing good and evil.’<sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate.<sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

## Toothpaste race

**Hymn:** Love with be our Lenten calling (Tune Picardy at 454) by Elizabeth J Smith

Love will be our Lenten calling,  
love to shake and shatter sin,  
waking every closed, cold spirit,  
stirring new life deep within,  
till the quickened heart remembers  
what our Easter birth can mean.

Peace will be our Lenten living  
as we turn for home again,  
Longing for the words of pardon,  
stripping off old grief and pain,  
Till we stand, restored and joyful,  
with the Church on Easter day.

Truth will be our Lenten learning:  
hear the Crucified One call!  
Shadowed by the Saviour's passion,  
images and idols fall,  
and, in Easter's holy splendour,  
God alone is all in all.

## Blessing as children leave for their activities

### Second reading: Matthew 4 1-11 (p.785)

**4** Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' <sup>4</sup> But he answered, 'It is written,

"One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you",  
and "On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."'

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; <sup>9</sup> and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

"Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."'

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

**Hymn:** Chosen people in the desert (Tune Ebenezer at 360)

By John Campbell

Chosen people in the desert,  
by life tempted, tested, tried:  
will they triumph in the struggle,  
trust in God and stay alive?  
They must wait for heav'nly manna  
all false gods must be denied.  
This is the only route to blessing-  
trust this God and they'll survive.

Son of God, baptised in Jordan,  
now is tempted, tested, tried;  
starts his lonely, desert struggle  
trusts in God so he'll survive:  
now rejects all selfish short cuts;  
now stands back from greed and pride:  
now, for us, resists the tempter,  
God alone keeps him alive!

Son of Man, betrayed and sentenced,  
once more taunted, tested, tried.  
On a cross, for us he suffers;  
For our rescue now he dies;  
faithful, 'til his final heartbeat,  
facing death, eyes open wide,  
gives his all that we might ever  
trust in God and stay alive.

We, like Jesus, called and chosen,  
daily tempted, tested, tried.  
challenged by relentless struggle,  
must trust God so we'll survive.  
We, too, know corrupting pressures,  
face seductive compromise;  
by Christ's death and through his Spirit,  
we'll trust God and stay alive!



## Sermon

### including reference to Romans 5 15-19 from the Message

**15-17** Yet the rescuing gift is not exactly parallel to the death-dealing sin. If one man's sin put crowds of people at the dead-end abyss of separation from God, just think what God's gift poured through one man, Jesus Christ, will do! There's no comparison between that death-dealing sin and this generous, life-giving gift. The verdict on that one sin was the death sentence; the verdict on the many sins that followed was this wonderful life sentence. If death got the upper hand through one man's wrongdoing, can you imagine the breathtaking recovery life makes, absolute life, in those who grasp with both hands this wildly extravagant life-gift, this grand setting-everything-right, that the one man Jesus Christ provides?

**18-19** Here it is in a nutshell: Just as one person did it wrong and got us in all this trouble with sin and death, another person did it right and got us out of it. But more than just getting us out of trouble, he got us into life! One man said no to God and put many people in the wrong; one man said yes to God and put many in the right.

**Hymn:** Seek ye First the Kingdom of God 512

## Prayers for others and ourselves

## Offertory and offertory prayer

**Hymn:** Will you come and follow me 558

## Sending out and Blessing

**Let us go, ready to face the wilderness  
Let us go, with the strength of God to resist temptation.  
Let us go, to live in the way that God opens up  
Let us go, knowing that God is present every minute of  
the day and surrounds us with love.**

And the blessing of God Almighty,  
Father and Creator, Son and Redeemer, Spirit and  
Sustainer,  
rest upon us all, now and always. **Amen.**

# Coming up...

**Prayers for Peace** - *The Sanctuary* **Tuesday 28th February**  
**12-1pm** and every week

**WarmSpace** - *Open to all!* **Every Thursday 3:30-6:30pm**

**United Prayer Time – Zoom** - *St Paul's & South Croydon*  
*United Church Meeting ID: 845 5391 2820* **Every Friday, 6pm**

**Tuesday Guild** - *On 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 10.15am for Craft and Natter*

**World Day of Prayer** – *Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March – please see notices*  
*in corridor*

**St Paul's Book Club** – *meets on 9<sup>th</sup> March 12.30pm for lunch*  
*to discuss "The boy with the top knot" and other things!*

**Church meeting next week** – *29<sup>th</sup> Jan after worship – lots to*  
*discuss, please come!*

**Worship next week** is led by our Minister – communion  
offering in aid of

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

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*Croham Park Avenue, South Croydon, CR2 7HF    [www.stpaulsurc.org.uk](http://www.stpaulsurc.org.uk)*  
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# St Paul's Quiz Night!



**SATURDAY 4TH MARCH**  
**7 PM - 9:30 PM**

*Free hot drinks*

**Tickets £5 per person**  
**£25 for a table of 6**  
**Max 6 quizzers per table!**

*BYO drinks & snacks*

*Prizes for the winners*

*Raffle!*

To book your ticket(s), request a lift or join the St Paul's table  
please email: [patgo123@aol.com](mailto:patgo123@aol.com)

St Paul's United Reformed Church, Croham Park Avenue, CR2 7HF

**ST PAUL'S  
YOUTH COUNCIL**  
Grab a Bargain at our  
**INDOOR BOOT  
SALE!**

**Saturday 11th March 9:30am - 12:30pm**  
**More than 30 stalls! Refreshments Entry 50p**

Further details: 07956 520 959      St Paul's Church Hall, Croham Park Ave, CR27HF      [www.stpaulsurc.org.uk](http://www.stpaulsurc.org.uk)