



**St Paul's
United
Reformed
Church**

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Order of Service

Sunday 1st January 2023



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

Today's service is being led by: **Joyce Brissett**
The Organ is played by: **John Hankin**

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

Call to Worship

Lighting the peace candle

All - This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it, this is the day of the Lord. Our saviour Christ, is risen - he has conquered sin and death, the power of love has overcome death, the power of love has

overcome, and God has given us the victory. Alleluia, alleluia amen.

Hymn 145 O: little town of Bethlehem

Prayer of approach confession of sin
Assurance of pardon
And the Lords prayer

Hymn 265 I cannot tell why he whom angels worship

Talk

Junior Church blessing

**All - 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**

The Junior Church leave for their activities

Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones
together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil.

Reading: Matthew 25: 31-46

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was

hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

Hymn 489: Be thou my vision, o lord of my heart

Sermon

Offering - with prayer and dedication

Our communion offering is for Mission Aviation Fund

Communion

Introduction

As we come to this meal
We seek peace among each other and for the world
The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: and also with you

Hymn 314: Break thou the bread of life

Invitation

Story

The Great prayer

The sharing

Therefore, with all your people in heaven and on earth. We
praise you, saying the hymn of your everlasting glory.

All - Holy, Holy, Holy Lord.

God of power and mighty
Heaven and earth are full of your glory hosanna in the
highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest

Prayers of intercession

Let us pray. Giving thanks for this gift beyond words.

Reaching out to the world in love

All- loving God

You have fed us generously at this table, as we have remembered Jesus and rejoiced that he is with us today, we are ready now to follow him, and to be your people in the world. May your holy spirit show us the way. make us Holy and fill us with love. Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

Leader: Lord in your mercy

All: hear our prayer

Leader- merciful father

**All: Accept these prayers. For the sake of your son.
Our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hymn 135: Joy to the world the Lord is come.

The blessing

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

All in the name of Christ, amen.

Coming up...

Prayers for Peace

The Sanctuary **Tuesday 3rd January 12-1pm** and every week

WarmSpace

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

United Prayer Time - Zoom

for St Paul's and South Croydon United Church

'Zoom' Meeting ID: 845 5391 2820 **Every Friday, 6pm**

Tuesday Guild

Resumes on 3rd January 10.15 for 10.30 with the new Spring programme and presentation on Galette des Rois by Caroline.

St Paul's Book Club

Meets on 12th January, 12.30 in Croydon Bowling Club, Nottingham Road / Warham Road to discuss the Girls in the Attic amongst other things. All welcome

Communion Offering *for Mission Aviation Fellowship – see leaflet. Please ask to donate by card after the service, thank you.*

For all future events and activities please see our website

Croham Park Avenue, South Croydon, CR2 7HF www.stpaulsurc.org.uk

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