



*St*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

*Minister:*  
**Rev. Martin Knight**  
Currently unavailable

*Church Secretaries:*  
**Sue Eardley**  
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# Order of Service

*Sunday 28th November 2021*



*First Sunday of Advent*

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

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This morning's service is being led by: **Mr John Ponsford**  
The Organ is played by: **Mr 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**, to help keep us all 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 will continue to be in the **Order Sheet**, **but feel free to pick up a Hymn book or Bible should you wish**.
- In line with the guidance from the URC, **we strongly recommend you continue to wear a mask indoors**, but we recognise this is now a matter of choice.
- **Offertory** – to reduce contact with physical notes and coins at this time, Standing Orders and bank transfers are preferred (please ask those who welcomed you at the door for more information), but there is also a labelled collection box at the exit, where you can place your offertory.
- 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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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](http://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.

## Welcome & Notices, lighting of the peace candle

### Call to Worship

#### Advent 1 – the Advent hope

Jesus said, 'Keep awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.'

**Amen. Come soon, Lord Jesus!**

*The first candle is lit and this response is used*

Jesus is the light of the world.

**A light no darkness can ever put out.**

*We sing:*

Advent candles tell their story  
as we watch and pray,  
longing for the Day of Glory,  
'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.  
Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness,  
changed for gladness on that Day.

Mark Earey

#### **Hymn 141:** Make way, make way

Make way, make way for Christ the King  
In splendour arrives  
Fling wide the gates and welcome Him  
Into your lives

*(refrain) Make way! (Make way!) Make way! (Make way!)  
For the King of kings (For the King of kings)  
Make way! (Make way!) Make way! (Make way!)  
And let His kingdom in*

He comes the broken hearts to heal, the prisoners to free  
The deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance, the blind shall see  
(*refrain*)

And those who mourn with heavy hearts who weep and sigh  
With laughter, joy and royal crown he'll beautify (*refrain*)

We call you now to worship Him as Lord of all  
To have no gods before Him their thrones must fall!  
(*refrain*)

## Prayers of praise and confession

Lord's Prayer

## Talk

### **Hymn 518:** Father I place into your hands

Father, I place into your hands the things that I can't do,  
Father, I place into your hands the times that I've been through.  
Father, I place into your hands the way that I should go,  
For I know I always can trust you.

Father, I place into your hands my friends and family.  
Father, I place into your hands the things that trouble me.  
Father, I place into your hands the person I would be,  
For I know I always can trust you.

Father, we love to see your face, we love to hear your voice.  
Father, we love to sing your praise and in your name rejoice.  
Father, we love to walk with you and in your presence rest,  
For we know we always can trust you.

## Children's blessing

**Leader:** Whether we are together or apart we are one in God's spirit

**Junior Church:** *The Lord bless us and keep us*

**All:** **The Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us. The Lord lift up his countenance upon us and give us peace.**

Junior church leave for their own activities.

## Bible Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for

David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

## Bible Reading: Luke 21:25-36

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

### **Hymn 127:** Hail to the Lord’s anointed

1 Hail to the Lord's anointed,  
great David's greater Son!  
Hail in the time appointed,  
His reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
to set the captive free,  
To take away transgression,  
and rule in equity.

2 He comes in succour speedy  
to those who suffer wrong,  
To help the poor and needy,  
and bid the weak be strong.  
To give them songs for sighing,  
their darkness turn to light,  
Whose souls, condemned and dying,  
are precious in His sight.

3 He shall come down like showers  
upon the fruitful earth,  
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers,  
spring in His path to birth.  
Before him on the mountains  
shall peace, the herald, go,  
and righteousness, in fountains  
from hill to valley flow.

4 Kings shall fall down before Him,  
and gold and incense bring;  
All nations shall adore Him,  
His praise all people sing;  
For He shall have dominion  
o'er river, sea, and shore,  
Far as the eagle's pinion,  
or dove's light wing can soar.

5 To him shall prayer unceasing  
and daily vows ascend;  
his kingdom still increasing,  
a kingdom without end.  
The tide of time shall never  
his covenant remove;  
his name shall stand forever;  
that name to us is love.

## Sermon

**Hymn 144:** It came upon a midnight clear

It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,

From angels bending near the earth,  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men  
from heavens all gracious King!"  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,  
with peaceful wings unfurled;  
And still their heavenly music  
floats o'er all the weary world:  
Above its sad and lowly plains t  
hey bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.

3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
the world has suffered long  
beneath the angel-strain have rolled  
two thousand years of wrong:  
and we, at bitter war, hear not  
the love-song which they bring:  
O hush the noise and end the strife,  
to hear the angels sing!

4 For lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophets bards foretold,  
When with the ever-circling years  
comes round the age of gold:  
When peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendours fling,  
And the whole world give back the song  
which now the angels sing.

## Offertory

## Prayer of Dedication

## Prayers of Intercession

### **Hymn 573:** God is working his purpose out

1 God is working this purpose out,  
as year succeeds to year;  
God is working this purpose out,  
and the time is drawing near;  
nearer and nearer draws the time,  
the time that shall surely be:  
When the earth shall be filled with the glory of God  
as the waters cover the sea.

2 From utmost east to utmost west,  
where human feet have trod,  
by the mouth of many messengers  
goes forth the voice of God:  
“Give ear to me, you continents,  
you isles, give ear to me,  
that the earth may be filled with the glory of God  
as the waters cover the sea.”

3 What can we do to work God's work,  
to prosper and increase  
Love and justice throughout the world,  
the reign of the Prince of Peace?  
What can we do to hasten the time—  
the time that shall surely be,  
when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God  
as the waters cover the sea.

4 Let us go out in the strength of God,  
with the banner of Christ unfurled,  
that the light of the glorious gospel of truth  
may shine throughout the world.  
Sin and sorrow let us fight  
to set the captives free,  
that the earth may be filled with the glory of God  
as the waters cover the sea.

5 All that we do can have no worth unless God blesses the deed.  
Vainly we hope for the harvest-tide till God gives life to the seed.  
Yet nearer and nearer draws the time, the time that shall surely  
be,  
when the earth shall be filled with the glory of God  
as the waters cover the sea.

## **Blessing**



# Christmas at St Paul's URC



Croham Park Avenue. South Croydon. Surrey CR2 7HF

**Sunday 12th December at 10:30am**  
Gift Service - donations to Purley Food Hub &  
Croydon Nightwatch

**Saturday 18th December 4pm- 7pm (Drop in)**  
Christmas Tree Festival - Family friendly event with  
children's activities, music & refreshments

**Sunday 19th December at 10:30am**  
Nativity Service led by the Junior Church

**Tuesday 21st December 4pm-6pm (Drop in)**  
Christmas Tree Festival - with music & refreshments

**Wednesday 22nd December at 5:30pm for tea**  
(service starts at 6pm)  
Young People's Carol Service

**Thursday 23rd December 7pm-9pm (Drop In)**  
Christmas Tree Festival - with music and refreshments

**Christmas Eve at 6:30pm**  
Carols by Candlelight with refreshments after the  
service. Collection in aid of St Christopher's Hospice

**Christmas Day at 9:15am**  
Christmas Day Worship at South Croydon United  
Church, Aberdeen Road, CR0 1EQ

## All are welcome!

For more details:  
[www.stpaulsurc.org.uk](http://www.stpaulsurc.org.uk) or 07971068887



# Information & Notices

*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 available for collection in full size and compact copies. It will also be emailed later this week. Thank you to all contributors*

## **Damascus to Rome – Life and legacy of St Paul**

*Continues on Thursday 2 December at 7.30 in the church.*

*See website, Pauline or corridor notice board for details*

**Next Sunday** – *Communion worship is led by Joyce Brissett with the communion offering in aid of the Children's Trust at Tadworth*

**Book Club** -*Is currently reading Music and Silence by Rose Tremain. Discussion Thursday 9 December 12.30-2pm Coach House Café, Coombe Lane.*

*For future events and activities please see our website [www.stpaulsurc.org.uk](http://www.stpaulsurc.org.uk)*



**St Paul's United Reformed Church**

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