



**St Paul's
United
Reformed
Church**

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Order of Service

Sunday 26th March 2023



Carl Bloch, "The Raising of Lazarus," ca. 1875

'A rollercoaster of emotions'

Please use 'T' on your hearing aid if you need the hearing loop.

Today's service is being led by: **Elaine Leck**
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

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 (Psalm 130) A song of ascents.

¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, LORD;

² **Lord, hear my voice.**

**Let your ears be attentive
to my cry for mercy.**

³ If you, LORD, kept a record of sins,
Lord, who could stand?

⁴ **But with you there is forgiveness,
so that we can, with reverence, serve you.**

⁵ I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits,
and in his word I put my hope.

⁶ **I wait for the Lord
more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.**

⁷ Israel, put your hope in the LORD,
for with the LORD is unfailing love
and with him is full redemption.

⁸ **He himself will redeem Israel
from all their sins.**

Hymn 261: At the Name of Jesus

GATHERING PRAYER OF PRAISE

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 ABOUNDS, 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.

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of God's Forgiveness

In the community of Christ's church and in the presence of God'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 234 : Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the Risen Lord

Talk - 'Happy or sad or?'

Hymn 523: Give me Joy in my Heart keep me Praising

We say the grace together

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, now and for evermore.

Children leave for their activities

Reading: John 11: 1-45 **The Death of Lazarus**

11 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” ⁸ The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” ⁹ Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them.” ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” ¹² The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to

him.” ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

Jesus the Resurrection and the Life

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” ²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴ Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. ^[f] Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, ^[g] the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

Jesus Weeps

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet

come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come

out!” ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.” ⁴⁵ Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Hymn 264: He is Lord, He is Lord

Sermon

Prayers of Intercession

Including ‘A Litany of Lament and Hope’

Response: **Living God, come close.**

Renew the life we thought was lost and gone.

Words above ©Neil Thorogood, URC Prayer Handbook 2023

Offering and prayer for the work of the church

Hymn 247: Thine be the Glory, Risen Conquering Son

Sending out and Blessing

www.stpaulsurc.org.uk



Join us for an

EASTER

**FREE
EVENT!**

EGG HUNT!

Sunday 2nd April

11:30 AM - 13:30 PM

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

**You are very welcome to join us at 10:30am for the
Palm Sunday Service!**

To book your place on the hunt please email franboto@aol.com



Coming up...

Prayers for Peace - *The Sanctuary Tuesdays 12-1pm*

WarmSpace final session - *Open to all! Thursday 3:30-6:30pm with worship at 5pm, supper 5.30. Please let Fran know if you are coming for catering numbers*

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

Tuesday Guild – Easter Miscellany *On 28th March, 10.15-noon. Please let Caroline know for numbers if poss.*

St Paul's Book Club – *meets on 9th April 7.30pm I Jubilee room to discuss "Educated" and other things!*

Church meeting – *Today 11.45. Lots to discuss, do come!*

Worship next week is led by our Minister – communion offering for International Needs. Followed by Easter Egg Hunt!

For Easter events and activities please see our website

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