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# Order of Service

*Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2023*



## *Homelessness Sunday*

*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: **Bea Pollard**  
The Organ is played by: **Robert Cooper**

## 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

**Call to Worship**

**Opening Prayer**

**Hymn 137: Hark the Glad Sound! the Saviour Comes**

## **I can't cope (Psalm 146)**

**Voice:** God! I can't cope. Why do you seem so far away?

**All:** Blessed is she whose help is in the God of Jacob  
whose hope is in the Lord her God,  
the maker of heaven and earth,  
the sea, and everything in them –  
the Lord who remains faithful for ever.

**Voice:** I can't even buy my kids some shoes  
if I want them to eat as well.

**All:** He upholds the cause of the oppressed  
and gives food to the hungry.

**Voice:** Will this never end? Will we have to stay here  
forever?

**All:** The Lord sets prisoners free,  
The Lord gives sight to the blind.

**Voice:** Those people looked at me as if I didn't exist!

**All:** The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down,  
The Lord loves the righteous.

**Voice:** I can't understand anything they said – why can't they  
help?

**All:** The Lord watches over the refugee  
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,  
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

**Voice:** O God – please help me!

**All: The Lord reigns for ever,  
your God, O Zion, for all generations.**

**Praise the Lord!**

*From The Trampled Vineyard*

## **Prayer of confession and assurance of pardon**

**Hymn** Jesus Christ is waiting, (tune Noel Nouvelet, 243)

1 Jesus Christ is waiting

Waiting in the streets;

No-one is his neighbour,

All alone he eats.

Listen, Lord Jesus,

I am lonely too.

Make me, friend or stranger,

Fit to wait on you.

2 Jesus Christ is raging,

Raging in the streets,

Where injustice spirals

And real hope retreats.

Listen, Lord Jesus,

I am angry too.

In the Kingdom's causes

Let me rage with you.

3 Jesus Christ is healing,

Healing in the streets;

Curing those who suffer,

Touching those he greets.

Listen, Lord Jesus,

I have pity too.

Let my care be active,

Healing just like you.

4 Jesus Christ is dancing,

Dancing in the streets,

Where each sign of hatred

He, with love, defeats.

Listen, Lord Jesus,

I should triumph too.

On suspicion's graveyard

Let me dance with you.

5 Jesus Christ is calling,  
Calling in the streets,  
“Who will join my journey?  
I will guide their feet.”  
Listen, Lord Jesus,  
Let my fears be few.  
Walk one step before me;  
I will follow you.

**Bible Reading:** Isaiah 5: 1-7

1 Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.

2 He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.

3 And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard.

4 What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?

5 And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down.

6 I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

7 For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

**Bible Reading:** Matthew 21: 33-46  
*The Parable of the Wicked Tenants*

‘Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again, he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, “They will respect my son.” But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, “This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.” So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?’ They said to him, ‘He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.’

Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the scriptures: “The stone that the builders rejected has become the

cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes”?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.’

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

### **Talk- Warnings from the Landlord**

**Hymn:** Beauty for brokenness (God of the Poor)

1 Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair

Lord, in your suffering world

This is our prayer

Bread for the children

Justice, joy, peace

Sunrise to sunset

Your kingdom increase!

2 Shelter for fragile lives

Cures for their ills

Work for all people

Trade for their skills

Land for the dispossessed

Rights for the weak

Voices to plead the cause

Of those who can't speak

3 *God of the poor*

*Friend of the weak*

*Give us compassion we pray*

*Melt our cold hearts*

*Let tears fall like rain*

*Come, change our love From a spark to a flame*

4 Refuge from cruel wars  
Havens from fear  
Cities for sanctuary  
Freedoms to share  
Peace to the killing-fields  
Scorched earth to green  
Christ for the bitterness  
His cross for the pain

*6 God of the poor  
Friend of the weak  
Give us compassion we pray  
Melt our cold hearts  
Let tears fall like rain  
Come, change our love  
From a spark to a flame*

*8 God of the poor  
Friend of the weak  
Give us compassion we pray  
Melt our cold hearts  
Let tears fall like rain  
Come, change our love  
From a spark to a flame*

5 Rest for the ravaged earth  
Oceans and streams  
Plundered and poisoned  
Our future, our dreams  
Lord, end our madness  
Carelessness, greed  
Make us content with  
The things that we need

7 Lighten our darkness  
Breathe on this flame  
Until your justice  
Burns brightly again  
Until the nations  
Learn of your ways  
Seek your salvation  
And bring you their praise

Graham Kendrick  
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## **Litany of Thanksgiving (inspired by Psalm 96)**

*Leader: Today we offer our thanksgiving and gratitude to the Giver of all good and perfect gifts,*

**ALL: The Lord be praised.**

*For the kindness shown by the Government in moving thousands of people experiencing homelessness off the streets into hotels during the COVID pandemic.*

**ALL: The Lord be praised.**

*For the army of staff and volunteers from night shelter charities who continue to support those in hotels, those newly in accommodation and those who have unfortunately returned to the streets.*

**ALL: The Lord be praised.**

*For the partnerships between local authorities, voluntary and charity organisations, faith and local communities, working together to end peoples' homelessness.*

**ALL: The Lord be praised.**

*For the hands of friendship that have been extended to us and the grace we have received.*

**ALL: The Lord be praised.**

*For Your continual provision in our lives, may we be generous to those in need.*

**ALL: The Lord be praised.**

*For Your mercies that are new at dawn and sustain us  
through the day, echoing through the night.*

**ALL: The Lord be praised.**

*For the gift of Your Son and His blood poured out.*

**ALL: The Lord be praised. Great is the Lord and most worthy  
to be praised!**

## **Prayers of intercession**

### **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 339:** Great God, your love has called us here

## **Collection**

We welcome the Junior Church

Spreading Hope

**Hymn R&S 572:** Colours of day dawn into the mind

Blessing

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# Coming up...

***This Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October*** Tuesday Guild with a Speaker from London Air Ambulance 10.15-noon. All welcome

***This Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October*** 12.30 Book Club in the Coach House Cafe

***Next Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October*** We welcome new members to St Paul's with cake and birthday celebrations afterwards.

***Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October*** Shoebox packing in the large hall All welcome

***Every Saturday*** prayer time online at 9am Meeting ID: 845 5391 2820 Passcode: 1111.

***For all 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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