



**St Paul's  
United  
Reformed  
Church**

*Minister:* **Revd. Martin Knight**  
020 8406 0667 minister1@stpaulsurc.org.uk

*Church Secretaries:* **Sue Eardley**  
07971 068887 Secretary@StpaulsURC.org.uk

**Bea Pollard**  
020 8657 0162 ronandbea@btinternet.com

# Order of Service

*Sunday 11 June 2023*



*Welcome to St Paul's!*

*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: **Angela Bannerman**  
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)

Pick up a ‘welcome’ leaflet with a little more about us and pictures of our elders – by the entry and exit doors.

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 (Psalm 138)**

**Hymn:** 355 Jesus calls us O'er the Tumult

### **Prayer of Approach**

### **Prayer of Confession**

### **Declaration of Forgiveness**

**First reading:** Genesis 12:1-9

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites

were in the land. Then the LORD appeared to Abram, and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the LORD and invoked the name of the LORD. And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

## **Talk to Junior church**

**Hymn:** 553 To Abraham and Sarah

## **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 ever more

**Junior church leave for their activities.**

**Reading:** Romans 4:13-25

### ***God's Promise Realized through Faith***

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So numerous shall your descendants be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, 21 being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore, his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

**Reading:** Matthew 9:9-17

*The Call of Matthew*

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him.

And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting[b] with Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners.”

### *The Question about Fasting*

Then the disciples of John came to him, saying, “Why do we and the Pharisees fast often, but your disciples do not fast?” And Jesus said to them, “The wedding attendants cannot mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them, can they? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast. No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak, for the patch pulls away from the cloak, and a worse tear is made. Neither is new wine put into old wineskins; otherwise, the skins burst, and the wine is spilled, and the skins are ruined, but new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved.”

## **Sermon**

**Hymn:** 726 I to the hills will lift mine eyes

## **Prayers of intercession**

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

**Offering and prayer** for the work of this church

**Hymn:** 92 Amazing grace

**Sending out and Blessing**

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**Happy Birthdays** - *Please come to the large hall swiftly after worship – we're celebrating people with birthdays in the next month. Cake and refreshments to share.*

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# Coming up...

**United Prayer Time – Zoom** - St Paul's & SCUC Meeting  
ID: 845 5391 2820, password 1111 **Every Friday, 7pm**

**St Paul's Book Club** – has chosen books till Christmas.  
Currently *A Man called Ove* by Fredrik Backman for 13<sup>th</sup> July.

**Garden project** – We'll be having more 'Dig Days' once the planters are installed to bed in the numerous plants Martin and Adam have been fostering for us awaiting their forever home.  
Look out for emails and WhatsApp messages.

## **Fete 24<sup>th</sup> June: We need help with the following please:**

- Offers to 'man' stalls and set up/clear up
- Donations of items for tombola, plant stall, books, children's clothes & toys – Cakes on the day or Friday 23rd.
- Loan of gazebos - and small tables to use for refreshments
- Distributors of leaflets and posters
- Enthusiasm to tell / invite friends, neighbours, family
- Prayers of encouragement for volunteers, community participation, energy, mission and (ideally) sunshine!

**Offers/ideas to Helen, Pat, Pat, Sue, Dennis, or Christine**  
**Thank you!**

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