



*St Paul's*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

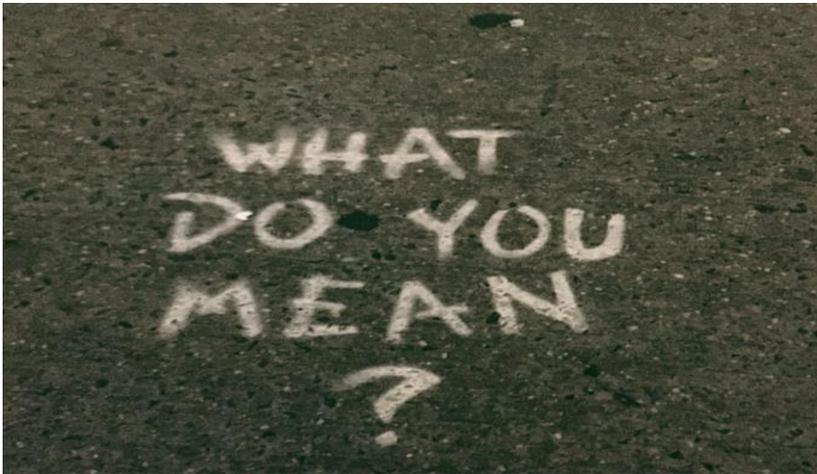
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# Order of Service

*Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2021*



*Always Ask!*

**Welcome to St Paul's!**

*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: **Fran Boto**. Prayers: **Angela Bannerman**.

The Organ is played by: **Edward Rook**

## Important notes:

- It is a joy to welcome you to this service!  
St Paul's URC has a **full Covid-19 Risk Assessment**, which is helping to keep everyone 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 and on the TV, 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, in the garden, at work or school, and 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**

## **Call to Worship**

## **Hymn: 469 AS WE ARE GATHERED (Sung twice)**

As we are gathered, Jesus is here;  
one with each other, Jesus is here;  
joined by the Spirit, built up in love,  
part of the Body, the Church of God.  
As we are gathered, Jesus is here,  
One with each other, Jesus is here.

## **Lighting of the Peace Candle**

## **Why are we here?**

## **Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon Lord's Prayer**

## Reading: Jeremiah 1 4-10

<sup>4</sup> Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

<sup>5</sup> ‘Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.’

<sup>6</sup> Then I said, ‘Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.’ <sup>7</sup> But the LORD said to me,

‘Do not say, “I am only a boy”;  
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,  
and you shall speak whatever I command you.

<sup>8</sup> Do not be afraid of them,  
for I am with you to deliver you,  
says the LORD.’

<sup>9</sup> Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me,

‘Now I have put my words in your mouth.

<sup>10</sup> See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,  
to pluck up and to pull down,  
to destroy and to overthrow,  
to build and to plant.’

## Family Talk

# Renewal of Promises of Baptism and Thanksgiving

*(Please stand as able)*

Do we thank God for the gift of our children and young people?

**(All) We do**

Do you promise by God's help to provide a Christian home for your children?

**(Parents) We do**

Do we promise with God's help to undertake to instruct these children in the gospel of God's love and to support them and their families in prayer and friendship?

**(All) We do**

**Hymn: ' I the Lord of Sea and Sky'**

**I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My people cry;  
all who dwell in dark and sin My hand will save.**

**I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.**

**Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send?**

*Here I am, Lord. It is I, Lord?*

*I have heard You calling in the night.*

*I will go Lord, if you lead me;*

*I will hold Your people in my heart.*

**I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne My people's pain;  
I have wept for love of them- they turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,**

**Give them hearts for love alone;  
I will speak My word to them. Whom shall I send?**

*Here I am, Lord. It is I, Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if you lead me;  
I will hold Your people in my heart.*

**I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame,  
I will set a feast for them- My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts are satisfied;  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?**

*Refrain*

**Junior Church Blessing** as they depart for their own activities.

**The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. Amen**

**Reading: Mark 9 30-37** -Jesus Again Foretells His Death and Resurrection

<sup>30</sup> They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; <sup>31</sup> for he was teaching his disciples,

saying to them, 'The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.' <sup>32</sup> But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

## **Who Is the Greatest?**

<sup>33</sup> Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the way?' <sup>34</sup> But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup> He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.' <sup>36</sup> Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup> 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

## **Sermon: Always Ask!**

### **Renewal of Promises, Marriage and Membership**

*( please stand as able)*

Gracious God, we give thanks for all you have given themselves in the covenant of marriage. Continue to pour out your blessings on them and lead them into that love which never comes to an end. Give them grace to forgive when words or actions hurt and to support one another in both times of joy and difficulty.

**Amen**

To those who have been received into the full privileges and responsibilities of church membership

Do we continue to accept the gift and cost of following Christ in our daily life and work?

**We do with God's help**

With the whole church will we proclaim by word and action the good news of God in Christ?

**We will with God's help. Amen**

## **Hymn: 636 The Church of Christ in every age**

The Church of Christ in every age  
Beset by change but Spirit led,  
Must claim and test its heritage  
And keep on rising from the dead.

Across the world, across the street,  
The victims of injustice cry  
For shelter and for bread to eat,  
And never live until they die.

Then let the servant Church arise,  
A caring Church that longs to be  
A partner in Christ's sacrifice,

And clothed in Christ's humanity.

For he alone, whose blood was shed,  
Can cure the fever in our blood,  
And teach us how to share our bread  
And feed the starving multitude.

We have no mission but to serve  
In full obedience to our Lord:  
To care for all, without reserve,  
And to spread his liberating Word.

## **Prayers of Intercession**

### **Hymn: 580 Lord you give the great commission.**

Lord, you give the great commission  
'Heal the sick and preach the word'  
Lest the Church neglect its mission  
and the gospel go unheard  
help us witness to your purpose  
with renewed integrity  
with the Spirit's gifts empower us  
for the work of ministry

Lord, you call us to your service  
'In my name baptize and teach'  
That the world may trust your promise  
life abundant meant for each  
give us all new fervour, draw us

closer in community  
with the Spirit's gifts empower us  
for the work of ministry

Lord, you make the common holy  
'This my body, this my blood'  
Let us all, for earth's true glory  
daily lift life heavenward  
asking that the world around us  
share Your children's liberty  
with the Spirit's gift empower us  
for the work of ministry

Lord, you show us love's true measure  
'Father, what they do, forgive'  
Yet we hoard as private treasure  
all that you so freely give  
May Your care and mercy lead us  
to a just society  
with the Spirit's gifts empower us  
for the work of ministry

Lord, you bless with words assuring;  
'I am with you to the end'.  
Faith and hope and love restoring  
may we serve as you intend,  
and, amid the cares that claim us,  
hold in mind eternity;  
with the Spirit's gifts empower us  
for the work of ministry.

## **Blessing**

**May we be like trees planted by the river of God.**

Our trunks straight, untwisted by envy or selfish ambition

**May we be like trees planted by the river of God.**

Our leaves broad, giving shade to all who suffer chaos and evil

**May we be like trees planted by the river of God.**

Our fruit sweet, bursting with mercy and peace.

**May we be like trees planted by the river of God.**

Our roots deep in the ever-fertile love of God.

**Amen**

# Information & Notices

*We extend a very warm welcome to you!*

## **United Prayer Time**

*for St Paul's and South Croydon United Church*

**Friday evenings at 7:30-8:00pm**

*Recurring 'Zoom' Meeting ID: 845 5391 2820*

## **The Pauline**

*Copy date is today. Please send all contributions to Pat Granville-Overton [patgo123@aol.com](mailto:patgo123@aol.com)*

## **Harvest service - Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October**

*Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October please bring gifts of non-perishable food and basic toiletries for the Purley Food Hub and night watch*

## **Croydon Families Nearly- New Sale 2<sup>nd</sup> October**

*We welcome local families selling preloved toys clothes and equipment for maternity babies and children. For more details contact [carshaltonfamiliesnns@gmail.com](mailto:carshaltonfamiliesnns@gmail.com)*

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



**St Paul's United Reformed Church**

*Croham Park Avenue, South Croydon, CR2 7HF [www.stpaulsurc.org.uk](http://www.stpaulsurc.org.uk)*

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