



**St Paul's
United
Reformed
Church**

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Order of Service

Sunday 17th September 2023



Knowing when to stop

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

Today's service is being led by: **John Ponsford**
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

Lighting the peace candle

Hymn 608: Awake, awake to love and work

Prayers of approach

Talk

Hymn 629: Make me a channel of your peace

Junior Church blessing

**All - The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all now and forever.
Amen**

The Junior Church leave for their activities

Reading: Genesis 50: 15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this

instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Reading: Matthew 18: 21-35

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the

slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Hymn 84: "Forgive our sins as we forgive"

The Lord's Prayer

Sermon

Offering - with prayer and dedication

Hymn 646: Help us accept each other

Prayers of confession and intercession

Hymn 663: Love divine

The blessing

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

All: In the name of Christ, amen.

**Please join us for refreshments in the small hall
after the service.**

**There will be a church meeting from around 11.50 in the
large hall, everyone is welcome to attend**

Dear Friends

Please find enclosed the agenda for the meeting of the South London Synod Area to be held at East Croydon URC on Tuesday 19th September 2023. For those wishing to join in and share Pizza and registration we will meet at 6.30pm. The meeting will start at 7.15pm. **Please note the start times**

The theme follows on from a talk the Rev Fiona Bennet gave to our ministers on the theme of Future Literacy - *the skill that allows people to better understand the role of the future in what they see and do. Being futures literate empowers the imagination, enhances our ability to prepare, recover and invent as changes occur.*



“Working today for a good Tomorrow.”

The meeting is one that I am sure will be of interest to every member of the URC and please remember that our meetings are open to all church members so please encourage your members to attend.

For those who would like to share a portion of Pizza and make a donation on the day towards the cost please let me know by the 16th September which Pizza you would like. Choose from the following Domino Menu.

Original Cheese and Tomato, Pepperoni Passion, Chicken Feast,
Double Bacon Cheese, Cheese & Pineapple, Vegi Supreme

Gluten Free options Cheese and Tomato, Vegi Supreme



I look forward to receiving your Pizza orders and to welcoming you on the 19th of September.

Yours sincerely

Alistair

South London Area Administrator

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Coming up...

This Tuesday 19th September Tuesday Guild coffee morning is in the church garden at 10.30-noon. All welcome (indoors if wet)

This Tuesday 19th September 6.30 is the Synod Area meeting - see poster on previous page

Next Sunday 24th September

'Bible breakfast' at 9-10am

Harvest Service 10.30- gifts for Food Hub please

Bring and Share lunch – all welcome. Please sign up on the poster in the corridor

Donations and helpers please towards the harvest flowers please – see the collecting boxes

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

Saturday 30th September – Wine tasting. Please contact Dennis Simmonds for details and tickets

For all future events and activities please see our website

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

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