



St Paul's
**United
Reformed
Church**

Minister:
Rev. Martin Knight
Currently unavailable

Church Secretaries:
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Order of Service

Sunday 30 January 2022



All about love

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

Today's service is being led by: **Mr John Ponsford**
The Organ is played by: **Mr John Hankin**

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

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.**

Important notes:

- It is a joy to welcome you to this service!
St Paul's URC has a **full Covid-19 Risk Assessment**, to help keep us all safe, so please follow the 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.**
- Although no longer required by the government guidance we encourage you to wear a face covering whilst indoors. Please bear with one another to keep us all safe.
- The hymns and responses are in this **Order Sheet, but feel free to pick up a Hymn book or Bible should you wish.**
- **Offertory** – we circulate the collection bag for contributions to the church's work, but standing orders and bank transfers are preferred (please ask an elder or welcomer for details) and we have a credit card reader if you prefer that..
- 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

Hymn 663 - Love divine, all loves excelling

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heav'n, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art.
Visit us with thy salvation;
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

2 Come, Almighty, to deliver,
let us all thy life receive.
Suddenly return, and never,
nevermore they temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

3 Finish, then, thy new creation;
true and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise

Prayers of praise and confession

The Lord's prayer

Talk

Hymn: 90 – O Lord, all the world belongs to you

O Lord, all the world belongs to You
and You are always making all things new.
What is wrong, You forgive,
and the new life You give
is what's turning the world upside down.

The world's only loving to its friends,
but Your way of loving never ends,
loving enemies too;
and this loving with You
is what's turning the world upside down.

The world lives divided and apart,
You draw us together, and we start
in our friendship to see
that in harmony we
can be turning the world upside down.

The world wants the wealth to live in state,
but You show a new way to be great:
like a servant You came,
and if we do the same,
we'll be turning the world upside down.

O Lord, all the world belongs to You
and You are always making all things new.
What is wrong, You forgive,
and the new life You give
is what's turning the world upside down.

Junior church blessing

Leader: Whether we are together or apart we are one in
God's spirit

Junior Church: The Lord bless us and keep us

All: The Lord make his face to shine upon us and be
gracious to us. The Lord lift up his countenance upon
us and give us peace.

Children leave for their activities

Readings: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 The Gift of Love

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast,¹ but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own

way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Gospel reading: Luke 4: 21-30

Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown. But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a

widow at Zarephath in Sidon. There were also many lepers^[a] in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Hymn 307: Though gifts of knowledge and of tongues (to tune 144 – it came upon a midnight clear)

1 Though gifts of knowledge and of tongues
I should in full possess
though I should suffer for a cause
and shine at selflessness
Though I had mountain-moving faith
or gave with all my will
my life would all be wasted breath
if I were loveless still

2 True love is patient, kind and brave
no envy there, or pride
no touchiness, no evil glee
when others slip or slide
Love always takes a pure delight
in truth, in people’s best
it trusts, endures, forgives and hopes
and overlooks the rest.

3 Our anxious gazings at the glass
no certain future see
yet, growing up we leave behind
the child we used to be
Complete in Christ, we'll fully know
and face to face be known
so faith and hope will find in love
their everlasting crown

Sermon

Hymn 353: There's a wideness in God's mercy

1 There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.

2 There is plentiful redemption
in the blood that has been shed
there is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the Head.

3 There is grace enough for thousands
of new worlds as great as this
there is room for fresh creations
in the Lord's unfathomed bliss

4 For the love of God is broader
than the measures of our mind

and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind

5 But we make His love too narrow
by false limits of our own,
and we magnify His strictness
with a zeal He will not own.

6 If our love were but more simple,
we should rest upon God's word,
and our lives would be illumined
by the presence of our Lord.

Offertory and prayer

Prayers of Intercession and dedication

Hymn 95: God is love, let heaven adore him

1 God is Love: let heav'n adore him;
God is Love: let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before him,
and exalt him with one voice.
He who laid the earth's foundation,
he who spread the heav'ns above,
he who breathes through all creation,
he is Love, eternal Love.

2 God is Love: and he enfoldeth
all the world in one embrace;
with unfailing grasp he holdeth

every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow's iron rod,
then they find that selfsame aching
deep within the heart of God.

3 God is Love: and though with blindness
sin afflicts the souls of all,
God's eternal loving-kindness
holds and guides us when we fall.
Sin and death and hell shall never
o'er us final triumph gain;
God is Love, so Love for ever
o'er the universe must reign

Final prayer and the Grace



St Paul's Valentine's Wine Tasting

Saturday 12th February 2022 at 7pm

St Paul's URC, Croham Park Avenue, CR2 7HF

Tickets: £25 per person

This includes a fish supper (vegetarian option available)
cheese and chocolate!

The evening will include a raffle and games!

Money raised will go towards transforming our church
front garden into a community space



To book your tickets please contact
dennis.simmonds@gmail.com

www.stpaulsurc.org.uk



We extend a very warm welcome to you!

United Prayer Time Fridays at 7:30-8pm

for St Paul's and South Croydon United Church

'Zoom' Meeting ID: 845 5391 2820

Book Club - *Is now reading Circe by Madeline Miller, discussion and chat is at 7.30pm on Thursday 10 Feb at St Paul's.*

Tuesday morning 'Guild' – *on 1 Feb – Talk - Ruth Markus talks about 'The new AMECA Maternity Unit, in rural Malawi'. From Malawi! 10.15 for 10.30 start All welcome*

Next Sunday – *worship at 10.30am led by Rev Roger Wood*

Valentine's Wine Tasting – *Saturday 12th Feb 7pm. Tickets form Dennis at £25, limited availability so please book asap.*

For future events and activities please see our website



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

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