



Church Secretary: **Sue Eardley**
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Order of Service

Sunday 27th April 2025



Mission & Vision: Discerning God's plan

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

Today's service is being led by: **Steve Tringham**

The organ is played by: **Jonathan Heaton**

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 Psalm 136: 1-3

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

O give thanks to the God of gods,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

O give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his steadfast love endures for ever;

Worship song 377 (R&S): This is the day that the Lord has made

Prayers of Approach & The 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**

Worship song 518 (R&S): Father I place into your hands

Children's Talk

Worship song 289 (R&S): To God be the glory

Offertory & Offertory Prayer

Prayers of Intercession

Reading: Jeremiah 29: 11-14

¹¹ For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. ¹² Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. ¹³ When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, ¹⁴ I will let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

Reading: Romans 8: 28-35

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good^[a] for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family.^[b] ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against

God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. [C] ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Talk Mission & Vision: Discerning God's plan

Worship song 522 (R&S): The Servant King (From heaven you came)

Blessing / Grace

If you'd like to support the work of St Paul's but have no cash for the collection, you can donate by card via <https://bit.ly/ForStPauls> or our card reader on request. We're registered for gift aid – see leaflets at the exits. Most members have a regular standing order in place. Please talk to any of the elders for more details

Coming up...

Next Sunday's communion service and worship will be led by

Rachel St.Clair. Communion offering for *Christian Aid*:

Christian Aid is a relief and development charity of 41 Christian churches in Britain and Ireland, and works to support sustainable development, eradicate poverty, support civil society and provide disaster relief in South America, the Caribbean, Africa and Asia. It works with hundreds of local partner organisations in some of the world's most vulnerable communities in 24 countries.

- **Tuesday Guild:** 29th April 10.15, AGM meeting.
- **New EXPLORE Group:** Tuesday 29th 11.45 For anyone interested in finding out about membership of St. Paul's.
- **House Group:** Will resume on Thursday 1st May (10.30) and Weds 14th May (7.30pm)
- **Church Away Day:** Saturday 3rd May 10-3pm Croham Road Baptist Church, lunch included, all welcome
- **Bible Study 9-10am next Sunday** at South Croydon United (still time to get back to St Paul's for 10.30.
- **Advance notice:**
 - **Charity VE Day Afternoon Tea:** 10th May – now fully booked. Contact Helen for witing list!

Prayer Time - Zoom - Every Saturday, 9am

'Zoom' Meeting ID: 845 5391 2820 / Password: 1111

If joining for the first time, please note that participation varies. If you find yourself on your own, please hang on till about 9.10 and do not be put off! Others will be praying at this time but not able to join the Zoom. Please try another week. Thank you for joining St Paul's prayer life.

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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Slides from the sermon

GOING FORWARD IN IMMENSE UNCERTAINTY

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts .” *Isaiah 55:8 -9*

To stay where we are in unbelief: or - go forward in immense uncertainty.

LETTING THE SPIRIT PRAY FOR US - WHEN WE DON'T KNOW WHAT TO ASK

*In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. **We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.....***

*And we know that **in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.....***

those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. Romans 8 vs 26 -28

ASSURANCE ABOUT GOD'S PLAN FOR US

God's plan is loving and complete – so we need to seek it

Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more ^{than} many sparrows *Luke 12 vs 6-7:*



ASSURANCE ABOUT GOD'S PLAN FOR US

It's not the world's plan and often it goes far beyond what we expect. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. **Romans 12:2:**

We often worry about things that God doesn't worry about.

- Gideon in Judges 7 v 1-7.
- Elijah and the widow of Zarephath - 1 Kings 17 v 7-16
- The 11 Disciples at Pentecost - Acts 2

GOD'S PLAN IS NOT OUR PLAN GIDEON AND THE MIDIANITES (JUDGES 7)

The LORD said to Gideon, "You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian into their hands, or Israel would boast against me, 'My own strength has saved me.'"³

So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained. But the LORD said to Gideon, "There are still too many men. Take them down to the water.....

Three hundred of them drank from cupped hands, lapping like dogs. All the rest got down on their knees to drink. The LORD said to Gideon, "With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the others go home."

In all these bible passages and story's, we see how God has a plan – That plan is often not what we expect

For I know the plans I have for you....plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:11-14