



St Paul's
**United
Reformed
Church**

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Order of Service

Sunday 30th October 2022



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

Today's service is being led by: **Bea Pollard**
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

Lighting the peace candle

Call to Worship: from Psalm 119

Leader: You are righteous, O Lord,
and your judgements are right.

**All: You have appointed your decrees in righteousness
and in all faithfulness.**

Leader: My zeal consumes me
because my foes forget your words.

**All: Your promise is well-tryed
and your servant loves it.**

Leader: I am small and despised
yet I do not forget your precepts.

**All: Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness,
And your law is the truth.**

Leader: Trouble and anguish have come upon me,
But your commandments are my delight.

**All: Your decrees are righteous forever;
Give me understanding that I may live.**

Prayer of approach

Hymn: 489 Be thou my vision

Talk with church family: Zacchaeus

Bible reading: Luke 19: 1-10 **Jesus and Zacchaeus**

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. 2 A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. 3 He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. 5 When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." 6 So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. 7 All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." 8 Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." 9 Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

Hymn:

Perched high, exposed and ridiculed,
an awkward little man,
the tax collector hung on tight;
he had no other plan.
But Jesus knew his tree,
and sought to set him free,
"Zacchaeus, I must eat with you,
get down because you can!"

A guest within a sinner's house –
thought shocking, out of place –
our Jesus loudly criticised,
would not admit disgrace;
he'd come to help the lost,
regardless of the cost,
so joy to see Zacchaeus saved,
shone bright on Jesus' face.

No matter our predicament –
Exposed, absurd or wrong –
the one who helped Zacchaeus down,
for us, still comes along;
with welcome, hope and joy,
each self-trap to destroy,
to set us free, new selves to be,
and let us share his song!

The Grace

We say the Grace together to bless our young people and ourselves as they leave to discover more about our God in their own groups.

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

Prayer of confession

Leader: Let us remember our own faults and failings in silence before God.

In the community of Christ's Church and in the presence of God's people. I confess to God that I have sinned in thought, word and deed.

I have not loved God, cared for God's world,
Or respected God's people as I should.
I own my responsibility and pray for God's pardon.

All: May God forgive you, Christ befriend you,
And the Spirit renew and change your life.

Leader: Amen

All: In the community of Christ's Church and in the presence of God's people. We confess to God that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.

**We have not loved God, cared for God's world,
Or respected God's people as we should.
We own our responsibility and pray for God's pardon.**

Leader: May God forgive you
Christ befriend you,
And the Spirit renew and change your life.

All: Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn 492: Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

Bible readings: [Habakkuk 1: 1-4; 2:1-5a](#)

1 The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.
2 O Lord, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not listen?
Or cry to you "Violence!" and you will not save?
3 Why do you make me see wrongdoing
and look at trouble?
Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.
4 So the law becomes slack,
and justice never prevails.
The wicked surround the righteous;
therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

I will stand at my watchpost
and station myself on the rampart;
I will keep watch to see what he will say to me
and what he[c] will answer concerning my complaint.
2 Then the Lord answered me and said:
Write the vision; make it plain on tablets,
so that a runner may read it.

3 For there is still a vision for the appointed time;
it speaks of the end and does not lie.

If it seems to tarry, wait for it;
it will surely come; it will not delay.

4 Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them,
but the righteous live by their faithfulness.

5 Moreover, wealth[d] is treacherous;
the arrogant do not endure.

They open their throats wide as Sheol;
like Death they never have enough.

[2 Thessalonians 1: 1-12](#)

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of everyone of you for one another is increasing. Therefore we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith during all your persecutions and the afflictions that you are enduring.

This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, and is intended to make you worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering. For it is indeed just of God to

repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to give relief to the afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, separated from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes to be glorified by his saints and to be marvelled at on that day among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. To this end we always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfill by his power every good resolve and work of faith, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon: O, Lord, how long?

Hymn 639: This we can do for Justice and for Peace

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

During the prayers of intercession , when the Leader says: Send forth your Spirit, Lord, please respond: **and renew the face of the earth.**

Offering

Hymn: (tune of R&S 566: The Church's one Foundation)

1. Our God is good and gracious
To those whose hearts are pure,
gives limitless protection
to those whose trust is sure.
The faith which we inherit
proclaims this loud and strong,
yet what we each experience,
may feel as though that's wrong.

2. For us, as for the psalmist,
our world feels upside down
the wicked seem to prosper,
whilst good folk sink and drown;
the rich keep getting richer,
their wealth and pow'r hold sway,
so why should we stay faithful,
to suffer ev'ry day?

3. Yet, surely, like the psalmist,
we may then come to see
that individual triumph
exists but fleetingly.
Then we'll see through assumptions
that seemed so sure before:
the world's success is empty;
God's love is worth far more!

4. We each must make our journey
in search of truth and right,
and grapple like the psalmist
'til God's our chief delight.
For only through such struggle
with how this world appears
will we find God's true goodness,
know joy for all our years.

John Campbell

Blessing:

As we prepare to leave and embrace the challenges of our
lives and our world, let us ask for God's blessing

May God bless us with strength
to seek justice. **Amen**

May God bless us with wisdom
to care for our earth. **Amen**

May God bless us with love
to bring forth new life. **Amen**

In the name of God the maker of the whole world,
of Jesus, our Saviour,
and of the Holy Spirit who opens eyes and hearts. **Amen**

Go in peace and be witnesses to hope.
Thanks be to God.

We extend a very warm welcome to you!

Prayer Time Fridays at 6-6.30pm 'Zoom' ID: 845 5391 2820.

Also open to pray for peace – Tuesdays 12-1pm WarmSpace open to all on Thursdays 3.30-6.30pm

All Souls Service – Wednesday evening from 6.30pm. A service led by the Minister to remember those who have died.

Tuesday Guild meeting – London's Sewers with Andrew Ward from 10.15 -11.30am

Pauline magazine copy date is today – please submit items before then if possible to Pat via patgo123@aol.com . issue date 6th November we hope.

Card and Craft sale – 12th November 10-1pm – helpers needed for refreshments and welcoming, please contact Pat GO

Beetle Drive –12th November 7-9pm – only £3. Tickets from Cathy Heath or Sue, if you have already got tickets from the postponed event please put this new date in the diary. Raising funds and donations for the shoebox appeal.

Next Sunday – Martin is back from his retreat in Iona

For future events and activities please see our website

St Paul's United Reformed Church

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