



St Paul's
United
Reformed
Church

Church Secretary: **Sue Eardley**
07971 068887 Secretary@StpaulsURC.org.uk

Order of Service

Sunday 4th May 2025



Jesus finds us where we are

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

Today's service is being led by: **Rachel St Clair**

Communion led by: **Fran Boto**

The organ is played by: **Lee Michael Walden**

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.

What are the white cloths?

We traditionally put these on the pews when we share Holy Communion together. You are invited to sit 'behind' them so you can be served at 'God's table' (it also makes it easier for the servers to reach you).

Welcome & Notices

Lighting of Peace Candle

Opening Prayers

Psalm 30: 1-5 (read together)

I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up, and did not let my foes rejoice over me.

² O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.

³ O LORD, you brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.

⁴ Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name.

⁵ For his anger is but for a moment; his favour is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning

Hymn 552 (R&S): The King of Love my Shepherd is

Junior Church leaves for their own activities

The Grace

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all now and for evermore. Amen.

Rachel's testimony

Worship Song: Big God

(Tim Godfrey X Fearless Community)

I have a very big God
A very big God oh
E no dey fall my hand
He's always on my side
A very big God. (repeat)

See my life
Na so so wonder
If you know my God
He's a miracle worker
He dey come through on a regular
Everything na jabarata
Him blessing need no formula

This is my God
He's a very big God (*repeat from See my life...*)

Reading: John 21: 1-19

21 After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way.²Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples.³Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We

will go with you.’ They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. ⁴ Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them, ‘Children, you have no fish, have you?’ They answered him, ‘No.’ ⁶ He said to them, ‘Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.’ So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, ‘It is the Lord!’ When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the lake. ⁸ But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards^[b] off. ⁹ When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, ‘Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.’ ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, ‘Come and have breakfast.’ Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. ¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my lambs.’ ¹⁶ A second time he said to him,

‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Tend my sheep.’ ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, ‘Do you love me?’ And he said to him, ‘Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my sheep.’ ¹⁸ Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.’ ¹⁹ (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, ‘Follow me.’

Reading: Acts 9: 1-19

9 Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?’ ⁵ He asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ The reply came, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.’ ⁶ But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.’ ⁷ The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸ Saul got up

from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. ¹⁰ Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' ¹¹ The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹² and he has seen in a vision^[a] a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.' ¹³ But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; ¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.' ¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶ I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.' ¹⁷ So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul^[b] and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Sermon: Jesus finds us where we are

Hymn 591 (R&S): Do not be afraid

Prayers for others

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done,
On earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are
yours, now and forever. **Amen**

Offertory and Offertory Prayer

Communion offering will be 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.

Communion Hymn 441 (R&S): Be known to us in breaking bread

Communion

Invitation

Story

Our Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you,

All: And also with you

Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them up to God

Let us give thanks to God

All: It is right to give thanks and praise

For you, Creator God,

The valleys laugh and sing

And the trees clap their hands.

Your earth summons us to break silence

And be one with the song of creation

All: We give you thanks and praise.

So, gladly, we join our voices

To those of earth, sea and sky,

In the universal hymn of praise

Which echoes through time and eternity.

All: Holy, holy, holy God of power and might

Heaven and earth are full of your glory

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who comes

in the name of the Lord,

Hosanna in the highest!

The Peace

We are reminded in the Gospel of Matthew that before we bring anything to God including our own hearts, we need to make peace with our brothers and sisters if there is any argument between us.

The peace of the Lord be with you.

All: The peace of the Lord be with you and all of us here today.

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing

God is with us! God is with us. We give thanks to God.

Amen

Hymn 247 (R&S): Thine be the glory

Blessing and Dismissal

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 service will be led by **Tom Griffiths**, lay preacher from Christchurch Purley

- **Guild outing:** Tuesday 6th May to Polesden Lacey. Please see Christine for more details
- **Elders meeting:** Wednesday 7th May 7.45pm, following In and Out meeting
- **Book Club** Thursday 8th May at Whelan's 13-15 Selsdon Road 12 noon to discuss Pachinko by Min Jin Lee
- **New EXPLORE Group:** Tuesday 13th May at 2.30pm, St. Paul's URC. This group is suitable for anyone who has expressed an interest in finding out more about becoming members of St. Paul's and newish members .
- **Charity VE Day Afternoon Tea: *see details below*** - just a reminder if you have booked a place
- **Next House Group:** Wednesday 14th May 7.30pm,. All welcome even if you haven't been before and Thursday 15th May 10.30 am both at church due to work at 372 Selsdon Road!
- **Sunday 18th May Christian Aid Lunch after the service with soup, quiz and speaker. Sign up sheet in corridor.**
- **Note**

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 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.



SPRING LUNCH

12 noon Sunday 18 May

St Paul's United Reformed Church,
Croham Park Avenue, CR2 7HF

**Includes guest speaker
from Christian Aid & Quiz!**

Everyone is welcome to join us for a delicious
lunch. Donations on the day to Christian Aid

To book please contact: franboto@aol.com or 07969 173457

www.stpaulsurc.org.uk



For all future events and activities please see our

website Croham Park Avenue, South Croydon, CR2 7HF

www.stpaulsurc.org.uk All words and music used with permission - CCLi:

212639 / CCL Streaming Licence

