



*St Paul's*  
**United  
Reformed  
Church**

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# Order of Service

*Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2022*

## 'Blessed, to be a blessing'



*L'Ascension de Jesus-Christ, Martin Schongauer*

## Welcome to St Paul's!

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

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This morning's service is being led by: **Rev'd Martin Knight**  
The Organ is played by: **Mr John Hankin**

## **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](http://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 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, in the garden, at work or school, and in all places.*

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## **Church Notices**

### **Call to Worship**

#### ***Lighting our Peace Candle***

## **WE SING: 'SING OF A GOD IN MAJESTIC DIVINITY'**

**seeding the heavens with numberless stars,  
forming our dust and our dreams of infinity,  
God of our lives and the judge of our wars.**

**Sing of a Child who was cradled so tenderly,  
sing of a boyhood by Galilee's lake;  
sing of a cross and a Saviour who wondrously  
suffered and died for humanity's sake.**

**Sing of a Spirit who daily addressing us,  
lives in our sciences, nature and arts;  
moving through all of creation and blessing us,  
guiding our minds and engaging our hearts.**

**Sing of this God who in glory and mystery  
chooses to lie in humanity's womb,  
enters the prison and pain of our history,  
rises triumphant and opens the tomb.**

*Words: Thomas Herbert O'Driscoll*

*Tune: 'Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness'*

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving & Confession**

### ***Lords' Prayer***

*At this moment in our lives;  
At this junction on our journey,  
We heed your call, O God.*

**WE GATHER AS YOUR PEOPLE,  
LOOKING FOR NEW LIFE FOR OUR LIFE.**

*We gather as your imperfect children, aware of our moments of  
selfishness and ambition, our tendency for cynicism and fear,  
our times of confusion and doubt.*

**YET YOUR GRACE ABOUND, O LORD.  
YOUR EVERLESTING LOVE AWAITS US.**

*So, we come as we are. With our shortcomings, yes, but also  
with our gifts, remembering that we are created and re-created  
in your image.*

**WE COME, AND YOUR WORD NOURISHES US.  
YOUR SPIRIT CALLS US.**

*We come desiring to walk your ways of justice and integrity, to hear your words of wisdom and renewal,*

**WE COME TO EXTEND, LIKE YOURS, OUR OPEN HANDS.**

*As we gather, may our worship renew us in the audacity...*

**...TO FOLLOW YOU AND LOVE YOU, EVERY DAY,  
WHEREVER YOU CALL US.**

And so, as Easter people, we proclaim

*Christ is risen!*

**HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA! AMEN**

## **‘What a story!’**

**Reading: Luke 24: 44-53**

*(pg.861)*

<sup>44</sup> Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’ <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.’

<sup>50</sup> Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. <sup>51</sup>While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup>And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; <sup>53</sup>and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

**WE SING:            'SWING LOW, SWEET CHARIOT'**  
*coming for to carry me home*  
*Swing low, sweet chariot*  
*coming for to carry me home*

**I looked over Jordan and what do I see**  
**(Coming for to carry me home)**  
**A band of angels coming after me**  
**Coming for to carry me home**  
*Swing low, sweet chariot...*

**I looked over Jordan and what do I see**  
**(Coming for to carry me home)**  
**A band of angels coming after me**  
**Coming for to carry me home**  
*Swing low, sweet chariot...*

**If you get there before I do**  
**Coming for to carry me home**  
**Tell all my friends I'm coming too**  
**Coming for to carry me home**  
*Swing low, sweet chariot...*

*Songwriter: Wallis Willis*

*As our youngest folk leave, we bless them and each other with the words of the Grace:*

**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**

<sup>1</sup>In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup>While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'

<sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' <sup>7</sup>He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' <sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

## WE SING: WE WILL TAKE WHAT YOU OFFER

Musical score for the hymn 'We Will Take What You Offer'. The score is written in 2/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: 'We will take what you offer, we will live by your word; we will love one another and be fed by you, Lord. We will take what you offer, we will live by your word; we will love one another and be fed by you, Lord.' The chords are: Dm, Dm7, Bdim, Bflat, F, G, A, Dm, Dm7, Bdim, Bflat, F6, G, A, Dm.

*Words: Iona Community*

## **'Blessed, to be a blessing'**

**'Ascension'** *by Duncan Wilson*

## WE SING: 274 'GOD IS LOVE, HIS THE CARE

Offering for the work of this church

Prayers for Others

## WE SING: 657 REJOICE, THE LORD IS KING

Sending out & Blessing

# Coming up...

## Pray for Peace

*St Paul's is open for private prayer every Tuesday and Thursday during the current situation in Ukraine.*

*Tuesdays 12-1pm*

*Thursdays 5-6pm*

*(See website/WhatsApp for changes)*



## Elders' Meeting

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 8:00pm, Youth Room**

## United Prayer Time - Zoom

*for St Paul's and South Croydon United Church*

*'Zoom' Meeting ID: 845 5391 2820*

**Friday evenings at 7:30-8:00pm**

## Jubilee Celebration!

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2-4:30pm**

*Indoor and outdoor fun for all ages. Bouncy castles, food, ice cream, activities, stalls, tombola, photo exhibition, free entry...*

## Next Sunday Worship

*led by Rev'd Martin Knight – **Jubilee Pentecost** with Communion*

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022, 10:30am**

***For all future events and activities please see our website***



St Paul's United Reformed Church

Croham Park Avenue, South Croydon, CR2 7HF

[www.stpaulsurc.org.uk](http://www.stpaulsurc.org.uk)

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