
Order of Service

Sunday 6th August 2023
with Holy Communion

FEEDING FIVE THOUSAND+



Welcome to St Paul's!

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

It is a joy to welcome you to this service!

If you do not attend a church elsewhere, we invite you to join 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 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.**

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

Church Notices

Lighting our Peace Candle

Call to Worship

**WE SING: 453 LET US TALENTS
AND TONGUES EMPLOY**

Prayer of Praise

Holy are you

HOLY ARE YOU

For being part of your creation

WE PRAISE YOU

For the inspirational teaching and love-filled life of Jesus

WE PRAISE YOU

For the call of your Spirit to follow in compassion and action

WE PRAISE YOU

Confession and Assurance

Leader: *Before God, with the people of God,
I confess to turning away from God
in the ways I wound my life,
the lives of others and the life of the world.*

**All: MAY GOD FORGIVE YOU, CHRIST RENEW YOU,
AND THE SPIRIT ENABLE YOU TO GROW IN LOVE.**

Leader: Amen

**All: BEFORE GOD, WITH THE PEOPLE OF GOD,
I CONFESS TO TURNING AWAY FROM GOD
IN THE WAYS I WOUND MY LIFE,
THE LIVES OF OTHERS
AND THE LIFE OF THE WORLD.**

Leader: *May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.*

All: AMEN

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.
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
The power and the glory Forever and ever. Amen

A FISHY TALE

Reading: Matthew 14: 13-21

(Pg.796)

¹³ Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick.

¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the

crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' ¹⁷ They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' ¹⁸ And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

WE SING: 745 A NEW COMMANDMENT

(twice)

**A new commandment I give unto you,
that you love one another as I have loved you;
that you love one another as I have loved you.
By this shall all know that you are my disciples:
if you have love one for another;
by this shall all know that you are my disciples:
if you have love one for another.**

Words: John 13: 34-35

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**

FOUR MEALS

Reading: Exodus 12: 33, 34, 37-39 (Pg.52)

³³The Egyptians urged the people to hasten their departure from the land, for they said, 'We shall all be dead.' ³⁴So the people took their dough before it was leavened, with their kneading-bowls wrapped up in their cloaks on their shoulders.

³⁷The Israelites journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides children. ³⁸A mixed crowd also went up with them, and livestock in great numbers, both flocks and herds. ³⁹They baked unleavened cakes of the dough that they had brought out of Egypt; it was not leavened, because they were driven out of Egypt and could not wait, nor had they prepared any provisions for themselves.

Numbers 11: 21-23 (Pg.114)

²¹But Moses said, 'The people I am with number six hundred thousand on foot; and you say, "I will give them meat, that they may eat for a whole month"! ²²Are there enough flocks and herds to slaughter for them? Are there enough fish in the sea to catch for them?' ²³The LORD said to Moses, 'Is the LORD's power limited? Now you shall see whether my word will come true for you or not.'

WE SING: 'AN IMPROVISED BANQUET'

(Tune: 67 'St Denio')

**An improvised banquet, right there on the shore,
with thousands all hungry to listen for more;
disciples, though wary, obey Jesus' call:
share bread in the desert, see plenty for all.**

**An upside-down banquet, no palace, no hall,
no wealthy oppressors; no Herod at all:
the eager, the anxious, the hard-pressed and poor,
here lavishly welcomed, not barred at the door.**

**An overstocked banquet, a sign of God's love
for shepherd-less people now blessed from above.
All people are welcomed, revived and restored,
for Jesus receives those whom others deplored.**

**These God-given banquets, one message for all:
now all of God's people may answer God's call.
We're summoned, replenished, then sent on our way,
to live out God's welcome for others, each day.**

Words © John Campbell, adpt: Martin Knight

SENDING NO ONE AWAY

Jesus and the Five Thousand (A First-World Translation)

by Peter Rollins

Reading: Psalm 145: 14-21 (Pg.506)

The LORD upholds all who are falling,
and raises up all who are bowed down.

¹⁵ The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.

¹⁶ You open your hand,
satisfying the desire of every living thing.

¹⁷ The LORD is just in all his ways,
and kind in all his doings.

¹⁸ The LORD is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

¹⁹ He fulfils the desire of all who fear him;
he also hears their cry, and saves them.

²⁰ The LORD watches over all who love him,
but all the wicked he will destroy.

²¹ My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,
and all flesh will bless his holy name for ever and ever.

WE SING: 199 JESUS THE LORD SAYS

(vs. 1 & 5)

Prayers for Others

Offering for the work of this church
& Communion Charity offering
for St Paul's Benevolent Fund

**BENEVOLENT
FUND**

Holy Communion

Introduction & The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you,
AND ALSO WITH YOU

WE SING: 199 JESUS THE LORD SAYS

(vs. 2 & 4)

Invitation

We come to this banquet -

ALL OF US WELCOME.

We know God is with us -

AS WE BREAK BREAD TOGETHER.

We prepare to remember Jesus -

AND TO BE INSPIRED BY THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH.

We rejoice to be filled with love in our hearts -

NEVER TURNING ANYONE AWAY FROM GOD'S FEAST

The Story & Great Prayer

*...Therefore, with all your people in heaven and on earth,
we praise you, saying the hymn of your everlasting glory:*

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD
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!**

Sharing & Thanksgiving Prayer

WE SING: 200 THE KINGDOM OF GOD

(Tune: 49 'Laudate Dominum' (Parry))

Sending forth & Blessing

**All are welcome to join us for refreshments
and time together, in the halls, after the service!**

Coming up...

Tuesday Guild Coffee Morning

Held at the home of Jean Gundlach

Tuesday 8th August, 10:30am

Synod Area Prayer - Zoom

'Zoom' Meeting ID: 896 3882 1888

Password: URC50

Every Thursday, 5pm

United Prayer Time - Zoom

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

If you would like us to pray for you or a person/situation close to you, please message/email Martin or Sue.

Every Friday, 7pm

Next Sunday Worship

In the Church Garden

led by Rev'd Martin Knight

Sunday 13th August 2023, 10:30am

Followed by a quick Extraordinary Church Meeting

Summer BBQ

Donations on the day

Please sign up in the corridor

or let Sue know you're coming

Thursday 17th August 2023, 3:30-6:30pm



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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