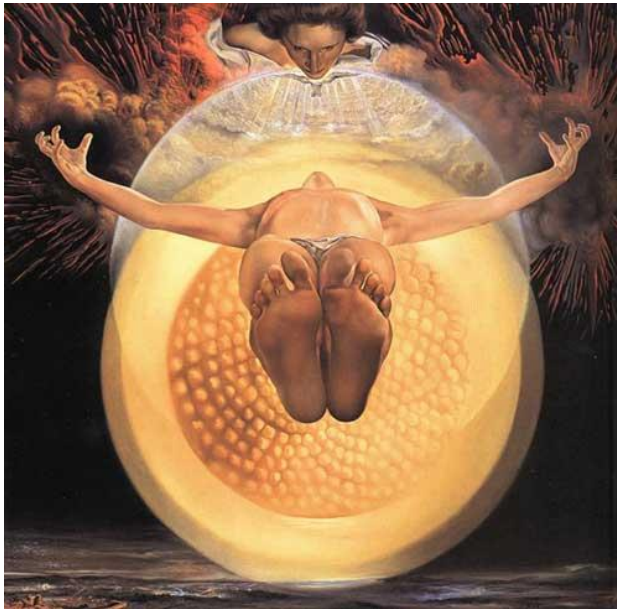

Order of Service

Sunday 21st May 2023

Ascension



Welcome to St Paul's!

This morning's service is being led by: **Rev'd Martin Knight**
The Organ is played by: **Mrs 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 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: 260 CHRIST IS ALIVE!
LET CHRISTIANS SING**

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Confession **responses**

Lords' Prayer

*Loving God,
here in this place, we gather
to celebrate the extravagant beauty of creation*

WE GATHER AS YOUR PEOPLE.

*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.

*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 EVERLASTING 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**

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

Leaving, but...

Reading: Acts 1: 6-11

(Pg.884)

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' ⁷ He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ 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.' ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ 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: 274 GOD IS LOVE, HIS THE CARE

**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**

Reading: Psalm 68: 1-6

(Pg.460)

¹ Let God rise up, let his enemies be scattered;
let those who hate him flee before him.

² As smoke is driven away, so drive them away;

as wax melts before the fire,
let the wicked perish before God.
³ But let the righteous be joyful;
let them exult before God;
let them be jubilant with joy.
⁴ Sing to God, sing praises to his name;
lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds^a—
his name is the LORD—
be exultant before him.

⁵ Father of orphans and protector of widows
is God in his holy habitation.
⁶ God gives the desolate a home to live in;
he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,
but the rebellious live in a parched land.

Reading: 1 Peter 5: 5b-11 (Pg.986)

^{5b} And all of you must clothe yourselves with humility in your dealings with one another, for

'God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.'

⁶ Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷ Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Discipline yourselves; keep alert.^b Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters^c throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

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 (B-flat). It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are: "We will take what you of - fer, we will live by your word; we will love one an - oth - er and be fed by you, Lord. We will take what you of - fer, we will live by your word; we will love one an - oth - er and be fed by you, Lord." The chords indicated above the notes are: Dm, Dm7, Bdim, Bflat, F, G, A, Dm, Bdim, Bflat, F6, G, A, Dm.

We will take what you offer,
We will live by your word;
We will love one another
And be fed by you, Lord.

Words: Iona Community

Raise above

WE SING: 'HAIL THE DAY THAT SEES HIM RISE'

(Tune: 102 'Llanfair')

**Hail the day that sees him rise, *Alleluia!*
taken from our wistful eyes! *Alleluia!*
Christ, awhile to mortals given, *Alleluia!*
reascends his native heaven: *Alleluia!***

**Him though highest heaven receives, *Alleluia!*
still he loves the earth he leaves; *Alleluia!*
though returning to his home, *Alleluia!*
still he calls the world his own; *Alleluia!***

**Master, parted from our sight, *Alleluia!*
high above the azure heights, *Alleluia!*
grant our hearts to you may rise, *Alleluia!*
following you beyond the skies: *Alleluia!***

**There the glorious triumph waits: *Alleluia!*
lift your heads, eternal gates: *Alleluia!*
wide unfold the radiant scene; *Alleluia!*
take the king of Glory in! *Alleluia!***

Words: Charles Wesley

Prayers for Others

Offering for the work of this church

WE SING: 657 REJOICE, THE LORD IS KING

Sending & Blessing

Coming up...

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

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

Bible Breakfast

Chance to look at the readings for that Sunday, with good conversation and breakfast!

Sunday 28th May, 9am – Jubilee Room

Next Sunday Worship

Pentecost with Holy Communion

led by Elaine Leck and Angela Bannerman

*(Communion charity collection for: **War Child UK [Ukraine]**)*

Sunday 28th May 2023, 10:30am

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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