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Order of Service

Sunday 20th August 2023



Children and Dogs

Please use 'T' on your hearing aid if you need the hearing loop.

Today's service is being led by: **Beatrice Pollard**
The Organ is played by: **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 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 *Please join in with the words in bold*

People will come from east and west, from north and south, and will eat in the kingdom of God

(Luke 13 v29)

PRAISE THE LORD

Every tribe and language and people and nation

(Revelation 5 v9)

PRAISE THE LORD

Where can I go from your Spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? (Psalm 139 v7)

PRAISE THE LORD

Lord, who will not fear and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you....' (Revelation 15 v4)

PRAISE THE LORD

Prayer of Approach

Hymn: R&S 647: 'In Christ there is no East or West'

Introduction to first reading

First reading:

Genesis 45: 1-15 :- Joseph Reveals Himself to His Brothers

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, 'Send everyone away from me.' So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. ² And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. ³ Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?' But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'Come closer to me.' And they came closer. He said, 'I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither ploughing nor harvest. ⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, "Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have.

¹¹ I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty." ¹² And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. ¹³ You must tell my father how greatly I am honoured in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.' ¹⁴ Then he fell

upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

A WONDERFUL INVITATION

Hymn R&S 480: The Church is like a Table

As the children depart, let us say the grace together:
**May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.
Evermore. Amen.**

Prayers of confession and Assurance of Pardon

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.

And lead us not into temptation;

But deliver us from evil.

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever
and ever. Amen**

Second Reading:

Matthew 15: 21-28 :- *The Canaanite Woman's Faith*

²¹ Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²² Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, 'Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.' ²³ But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, 'Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.' ²⁴ He answered, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' ²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, help me.' ²⁶ He answered, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' ²⁷ She said, 'Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.' ²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.' And her daughter was healed instantly.

Hymn: For everyone born a place at the table

1 **For ev'ryone born, a place at the table,
For ev'ryone born, clean water and bread,
A shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
For ev'ryone born, a star overhead.**

***And God will delight when we are creators
Of justice and joy, compassion and peace:
Yes, God will delight when we are creators
Of justice, justice and joy.***

- 2 **For woman and man, a place at the table,
Revising the roles, deciding the share,
With wisdom and grace dividing the power,
For woman and man a system that's fair.
 *And God will delight...***
- 3 **For young and for old, a place at the table,
A voice to be heard, a part in the song,
The hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
For young and for old, the right to belong.
 *And God will delight...***
- 4 **For gay and for straight, a place at the table,
a covenant shared, a welcoming space,
a rainbow of race and gender and colour,
for gay and for straight, the chalice of grace,
 *And God will delight...***
- 5 **For just and unjust, a place at the table,
Abuser, abused, with need to forgive,
In anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,
For just and unjust, a new way to live.
 *And God will delight...***
- 6 **For ev'ryone born, a place at the table,
To live without fear, and simply to be,
To work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
For ev'ryone born, the right to be free.
 *And God will delight...***

Shirley Erena Murray

CHILDREN AND DOGS

Hymn R&S 353: There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Prayers of Intercession

Response: Lord in your mercy

HEAR OUR PRAYER

Collection for the work of the church

Hymn R&S 95: God is love: Let Heaven adore Him

Blessing

**You are very welcome to join us in the large
hall for refreshments after the service**



Synod Prayer Days

Deployment Missions Outreach
Concerns Future
Congregations Buildings Age profiles
Evangelism Decline

**We talk a lot together,
in Councils, Synod Area
and Synod meetings**

But do we listen?

*Do we spend time listening
to God?*

**This is an opportunity to listen to
God together as Synod (Area)!**

EKSA / WKESSA	Sat 8 July	Cade Road Ashford
S&SSA	Sat 22 July	Crawley URC
SLSA	Sat 12 Aug	Crossways URC, Elephant & Castle
CSUA	Sat 9 Sep	Emmanuel United Church, Eastbourne

All days start at 10am for 10:30 finishing at 4pm

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 / 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

Tuesday Guild Summer Coffee Mornings –

fortnightly from 11th July 10,30 -noon. This Tuesday 22nd August at Caroline's house

5 Castlemaine Ave. CR2 7HU / 020 8681 0062

Tuesday 22nd August, 10:30am

Book club – *Summer read is the Grapes of Wrath*

Next Sunday Worship

led by Mrs Joyce Brissett

Sunday 27th August 2023, 10:30am

For other events and activities please see our website



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