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Order of Service

Sunday 7th April 2024
with Holy Communion



Resurrection People!

Welcome to St Paul's!

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

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 during worship 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.

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).

Church Notices

Call to Worship

Lighting of Peace Candle

Alleluia!

ALLELUIA!

...

Christ is Risen!

HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!

WE SING: 260 CHRIST IS ALIVE! LET CHRISTIANS SING

Prayer of Thanksgiving, Confession & Assurance

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

Emotional story

Reading: John 20: 19-31 (Pg.883) **Jesus appears**

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said

to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' ²⁸ Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' ²⁹ Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

WE SING: 555 WE ARE MARCHING

We are marching in the light of God

We are marching in the light of God

(repeat)

We are marching, we are marching ooo!

We are marching in the light of God.

(repeat)

We are living in the love of God.

We are moving in the power of God

Words: South African trad.

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: Acts 4: 32-35 (Pg.888) **The Believers share**

³² Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³ With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴ There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵ They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

WE SING: 'SAFE, LOCKED INSIDE THAT UPPER ROOM'

(Tune: 76ii 'Niagara')

**Safe, locked inside that upper room,
too scared to let the truth be known,
disciples had to see their Lord
before that truth could be their own.**

And Thomas, still so full of doubt,
would not believe the tales they told
till Christ appeared, to show his wounds -
then his conviction made him bold.

Yet doubts and fears returned again.
Once more they locked themselves away
until the Holy Spirit came
on that inspiring, vital day.

The truth is now a living fact.
The love of God can never die.
So bold apostles stood their ground –
their living Lord is not a lie.

We have not seen, but we believe
and we must witness by our faith
to living truth we have received,
awakened by the Spirit's breath.

Words© Marjorie Dobson

Resurrection People!

Prayers for Others

Offering for the work of this church
and Communion Charity collection for
'St Pier's School & Collage' (Young Epilepsy)



HOLY COMMUNION

(The bread is gluten free and non-alcoholic wine is available on each tray)

Introduction & The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you,

AND ALSO WITH YOU

WE SING: 'COME! SHARE THIS FEAST WITH CHRIST

(Tune: 294 'Down Ampney')

**Come! Share this feast with Christ!
Christ, who was always the guest;
the bread he blessed and shared around the table.
Find here a friendly face,
hard hands he will embrace
and draw you into freedoms own encounter.**

**Come! Share this feast with Christ!
Christ, who was always the guest
in rooms of pain and sickness none would enter.
Eyes wide with tears God streams
into our wounds and fears,
to make us sure that love is heavens answer.**

**Come share this feast with Christ!
Christ, who was always the guest
At wedding feasts the wine he shared so freely.
Throw caution to the wind!
Let down your hair and sing
For Christ will dance with you the dance of freedom.**

**Come! Share this feast with Christ!
Christ, who invites us as host,
and pulls a chair for us to rest our burden.
O Bread and Wine be blessed!
Faith, hope and love confess!
Come share this feast with Christ
who bids us welcome!**

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Invitation & The Story

The Great Prayer

The Lord be with you

AND ALSO WITH YOU

Lift up your hearts

WE LIFT THEM TO THE LORD.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE OUR THANKS AND PRAISE.

*...for all these gifts we thank you,
and we join with all your people
on earth and in heaven,
in joyful praise...*

**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!**

The Sharing & Prayer after the Feast

WE SING: 'COMMUNITY OF CHRIST'

(Tune: 118 'Leoni')

Community of Christ,
who make the Cross your own,
live out your creed and risk your life
for God alone:
the God who wears your face,
to whom all worlds belong,
whose children are of every race
and every song.

Community of Christ,
look past the Church's door
and see the refugee,
the hungry, and the poor.
Take hands with the oppressed,
the jobless in your street,
take towel and water, that you wash
your neighbour's feet.

Community of Christ,
through whom the word must sound –
cry out for justice and for peace
the whole world round:
disarm the powers that war
and all that can destroy,
turn bombs to bread,
and tears of anguish into joy.

When menace melts away,
so shall God's will be done,
the climate of the world be peace
and Christ it's Sun;
our currency be love
and kindness our law,
our food and faith be shared as one
for evermore.

Words© Shirley Erena Murray

Sending Forth & Blessing

*Loving God,
as resurrection people,
we trust that you are able to free us from our locked rooms.
Lead us, in hope and trust,
out into all the world.*

*We go, in your strength
and with your peace,
to love and serve the Lord.*

IN THE NAME OF CHRIST. AMEN

Coming up...

Tuesday Guild

'St John's Ambulance'

Tuesday 9th April, 10:15am

Worship & Discipleship Meeting

Wednesday 9th April, 7pm

Evening House Group

with Fran, held at 372 Selsdon Road

Wednesday 10th April, 7:30pm

Book Club

'Into the Darkest Corner' by Elizabeth Haynes

St Paul's URC

Thursday 11th April, 7:30pm

United Prayer Time - Zoom

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

Every Saturday, 8am

Next Sunday Worship

led by Bea Pollard

Sunday 14th April 2024, 10:30am

For all future events and activities please see our website

www.stpaulsurc.org.uk

www.facebook.com/stpaulsurc

FOR YOUR DIARY!

Martin's Leaving Party

Friday 19th April from 6pm.

It is a 'bring-and-share' buffet.

Please speak to Pat G.O who is collating a list of food for the event.

It would be helpful to know numbers of those planning to come, so please sign up on the sheet on the church activities board in the corridor. An order of play will be shared in advance.

Beetle Drive

Saturday 4th May

Tickets are available now!

Please speak to Cathy Heath or sign your name on the sheet on the church activities board.

Raffle prizes very welcome! (Please given them to Helen Dean)

Spring Christian Aid Lunch

Sunday 12th May

We will need to know numbers, so please sign up on the sheet on the church activities board.

Summer Fete

We are starting to collect Bric-a-Brac.

Please leave in the North transept (nr ramp) on Sundays.

If you have large items, please let Gill or Pat GO know first, so we can work out storage!



Croham Park Avenue, South Croydon, CR2 7HF www.stpaulsurc.org.uk

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