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# Order of Service

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024  
*Second Sunday of Epiphany*



Welcome to St Paul's!

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

## **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](http://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.*

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## **Church Notices**

### **Call to Worship**

*If we come in certainty or in confusion  
in anger or in anguish*

**THIS TIME IS FOR US**

*If we come with work on our mind  
or time on our hands*

**THIS TIME IS FOR US**

*If we come in silent suffering or hidden sorrow  
in pain or with praise*

**THIS TIME IS FOR US**

*If we come, and do not know why,  
to be here is enough*

**THIS TIME IS FOR US ALL**

*Come now, Christ of the warm smile  
Come now, Christ of the yearning tears  
Come now, Christ of the transforming touch*

**WE SHARE THIS TIME WITH YOU**

## **WE SING: COME, ALL WHO LOOK TO CHRIST TODAY**

*(Tune: 209 'Winchester New')*

**Come, all who look to Christ today,  
stretch out your hands, enlarge your mind,  
together share his living way  
where all who humbly seek will find.**

**Come, all who will from every race;  
find here new powers of unity,  
accept the Spirit's strong embrace  
which binds us to community.**

**Come, young and old from every Church,  
bring all your treasures of prayer,  
join the dynamic Spirit's search  
to press beyond the truths we share.**

**Bring your traditions' richest store,  
your hymns and rites and cherished creeds;  
explore our visions, pray for more,  
since God delights to meet fresh needs.**

**Come, trust in Christ and live in peace,  
anticipate that final light  
when strife and bigotry shall cease,  
and faith be lost in praise and sight.**

*Words: Richard G. Jones*

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

### ***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

## *Rooted in Thanks*

### **WE SING: 'LET US BUILD A HOUSE'**

**Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:  
*All are welcome,  
all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.***

**Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:**

**Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger:**

**Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:**

*Words: Marty Haugen*

### **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**

**Readings: Acts 12: 1-19**

*(Pg.896)*

About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. <sup>2</sup> He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. <sup>3</sup> After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.) <sup>4</sup> When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. <sup>5</sup> While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him.

## Peter Delivered from Prison

<sup>6</sup> The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. <sup>7</sup> Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, 'Get up quickly.' And the chains fell off his wrists. <sup>8</sup> The angel said to him, 'Fasten your belt and put on your sandals.' He did so. Then he said to him, 'Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.' <sup>9</sup> Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. <sup>10</sup> After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. <sup>11</sup> Then Peter came to himself and said, 'Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.'

<sup>12</sup> As soon as he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many had gathered and were praying. <sup>13</sup> When he knocked at the outer gate, a maid named Rhoda came to answer. <sup>14</sup> On recognizing Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed that, instead of opening the gate, she ran in and announced that Peter was standing at the gate. <sup>15</sup> They said to her, 'You are out of your mind!' But she insisted that it was so. They said, 'It is his angel.' <sup>16</sup> Meanwhile, Peter continued knocking; and when they opened the gate, they saw him and were amazed. <sup>17</sup> He motioned to them with his hand to be silent, and described for them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he added, 'Tell this to James and to the believers.' Then he left and went to another place.

<sup>18</sup> When morning came, there was no small commotion among the soldiers over what had become of Peter. <sup>19</sup> When Herod had searched for him and could not find him, he examined the guards and ordered them to be put to death. Then he went down from Judea to Caesarea and stayed there.

**Psalm 139: 1-12** (Pg.503)

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

<sup>2</sup> You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from far away.

<sup>3</sup> You search out my path and my lying down,  
and are acquainted with all my ways.

<sup>4</sup> Even before a word is on my tongue,  
O LORD, you know it completely.

<sup>5</sup> You hem me in, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.

<sup>6</sup> Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

<sup>7</sup> Where can I go from your spirit?  
Or where can I flee from your presence?

<sup>8</sup> If I ascend to heaven, you are there;  
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

<sup>9</sup> If I take the wings of the morning  
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

<sup>10</sup> even there your hand shall lead me,  
and your right hand shall hold me fast.

<sup>11</sup> If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me,  
and the light around me become night',

<sup>12</sup> even the darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is as bright as the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.

**WE SING: 469 AS WE ARE GATHERED**

*(sung twice)*

# House Groups

**WE SING: 474 BROTHER, SISTER, LET ME SERVE YOU**

## Prayers for Others

**Offering for the work of this church**

**WE SING: 'THANKS FOR FRIENDS  
WHO KEEP ON LOVING'**

*(Tune: 'Ode to joy')*

**Thanks for friends who keep on loving,  
finding ways to help us grow,  
celebrating our achievements,  
sharing in the pain and woe.  
God is glimpsed where love is faithful:  
mirrored here in time and space.  
Thanks to God for friends who love us:  
Christ revealed in every face.**

**Other people help to shape us  
when they take the time to share  
words of wisdom, honest actions  
through our journey in God's care.  
In our faithful, honest learning  
we discover things unknown.  
Thanks to God for friends who teach us:  
seeking talents yet unknown.**



When we find our friendships challenged  
through mistakes and different views,  
we discover deeper living  
as the love of God renews.  
For in Christ we see forgiveness;  
know a strength still to embrace.  
Thanks to God for friends who keep us:  
making real the gift of grace.

Praise to God for this great gifting  
of relationship and friend:  
imagining divine relating;  
found in heaven with no end.  
Bless us Maker, Word and Spirit  
as companions on the way.  
Thanks to God for friends who help us  
to fulfil our lives each day.

Words© Gary Hopkins

### Sending Forth & Blessing

*Look at your hands*  
*See the touch and the tenderness*  
**GOD'S OWN FOR THE WORLD**

*Look at your feet*  
*See the path and the direction*  
**GOD'S OWN FOR THE WORLD**

*Look at your heart*  
*See the fire and the love*  
**GOD'S OWN FOR THE WORLD**

*Look at your faith*  
*See God's love and hope*  
**GOD'S OWN FOR THE WORLD**

*This is God's world*  
**WE WILL SERVE GOD IN IT**

*And may the love of the Creator*  
*The joy of the Spirit*  
*and the peace of the Christ-Child*  
*Be with us this day and forevermore*

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

# Coming up...

## Tuesday Guild

*'Linen Liberty and Beyond', with Fiona McKelvie*

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 10:15am**

## United Prayer Time - Zoom

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

**Every Saturday, 8am**

## Next Sunday Worship

*led by Elaine Leck*

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2024, 10:30am**

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

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

[www.facebook.com/stpaulsurc](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsurc)



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