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Order of Service

Christmas Eve Candlelight 2023



Welcome to St Paul's!

The service is being led by: **Rev'd Martin Knight**
& **Members of St Paul's and South Croydon United Church**
The Organ is played by: **Mr Robert Cooper** and Piano by **Mr Lee Michael Walton**

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

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

Welcome

Prayer

WE SING: 'ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY'

(Solo and Singers verses 1&2)

**3. For he is our childhood's pattern;
day by day, like us He grew;
He was little, weak and helpless,
tears and smiles like us He knew;
and He feeleth for our sadness,
and He shareth in our gladness.**

**4. Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him, but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
when like stars his children crowned
all in white shall wait around.**

Cecil Frances Alexander

1st Lesson *'The First Day'*

Genesis 1: 1-5 *(New Revised Standard Version)*

During which, the 'Peacelight' is brought forward: from Bethlehem to South Croydon

SINGERS: 'OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN'

(Verses 1&2)

2nd Lesson *'We have seen a great light'*

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7 *(King James Version)*

WE SING: This is he whom seers in old time
chanted of with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets
promised in their faithful word;
now he shines, the long-expected;
let creation praise its Lord,
evermore and evermore.

Let the heights of heaven, adore him;
angel hosts, his praises sing;
powers, dominions, bow before him,
and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
every voice in concert sing,
evermore and evermore!

Prudentius (348ad)

3rd Lesson *'Mary and the Angel'*

Luke 1: 26-33 *(NRSV)*

WE SING: 'UNTO US A BOY IS BORN!'

**King of all creation,
came he to a world forlorn,
the Lord of every nation.**

**Christ from heaven descending low
comes, on earth a stranger;
ox and ass their Owner know,
becradled in the manger.**

**Now may Mary's son, who came
so long ago to love us,
lead us all with hearts aflame
unto the joys above us.**

**Omega and Alpha he!
Let the organ thunder,
while the Choir with peals of glee
doth rend the air asunder.**

Words: Percy Dearmer

4th Lesson *'The birth of Jesus'*

Luke 2: 1-7 *(KJV)*

'The Nativity' *by Godfrey Rust*

'In the bleak midwinter' *piano solo*

G.Holst, arr. Lee Michael Walton

5th Lesson *'The Shepherds'*

Luke 2: 8-16 (NRSV)

**WE SING: 'SEE IN YONDER MANGER LOW'
born for us on earth below,
see! the tender Lamb appears
promised from eternal years:**

*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!
Hail, redemptions happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'*

**Say, ye holy shepherds, say,
what your joyful news today;
wherefore have ye left your sheep
on the lonely mountain steep?**

**'As we watched at dead of night,
lo, we saw a wonderous light:
angels, singing "Peace on earth",
told us of the Saviour's birth':**

Edward Caswall

6th Lesson *'The Wisemen'*

Matthew 2: 1-5a, 7-11 (NRSV)

'The Magi' *by Godfrey Rust*

WE SING: 'O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL'

joyful and triumphant,

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:

come and behold him

born the King of angels:

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

God of God,

Light of light,

lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;

very God,

begotten, not created:

Lo! Star-led chieftains,

magi, Christ adoring,

offer him incense, gold and myrrh;

we to the Christ Child

bring our hearts' oblations:

Sing, choirs of angels,

sing in exultation,

sing, all ye citizens of heaven above,

'Glory to God

in the highest':

Latin, tr. Frederick Oakeley

Message: 'Reflected love'

The Peacelight is shared

(A flame from Bethlehem, sparks each candle during the next carol)

WE SING: 'STAR CHILD, EARTH-CHILD'

(Singers verses 1&2)

(Men)

**3. Grown child, old child,
mem'ry full of years,
sad child, lost child,
story told in tears,**

***This year, this year, let the day arrive,
when Christmas comes for everyone,
everyone alive!***

(Women)

**4. Spared child, spoiled child,
having, wanting more,
wise child, faith child
knowing joy in store,**

**5. Hope-for-peace Child,
God's stupendous sign,
down-to-earth Child,
star of stars that shine.**

Word © Shirley Murray / Music © Colin Gibson

Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

WE SING: 'IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR'
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
'Glory to God! On earth be peace,
from heaven's all-gracious King';
the world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

(Singers verses 2)

**Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long,
beneath the angel-strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and we, at bitter war, hear not
the love-song which they bring:
O hush the noise and end the strife,
to hear the angels sing.**

**For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet bards foretold,
when with the ever-circling years
comes round the age of gold;
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.**

E.H.Sears

7th Lesson *'The Light in the darkness'*

John 1: 1-5, 9 & 14 (*Inclusive Version*)

'The Word' *by Godfrey Rust*

WE SING: 'HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING'

Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem'
*Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the new-born King.*

Christ by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased as Man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings:
mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us all from earth,
born to give us second birth:**

Charles Wesley

Sending Forth & Blessing

Donation Bowls near exits and refreshment stand, for:

StChristopher's

More than just a hospice



St Christopher's offers world class palliative and end of life care to everyone who needs it, whenever or wherever that may be. The hospice is a friendly, vibrant place, with excellent medical and nursing care, devoted to doing their best for patients and families, plus practical, emotional and spiritual support to over 7,500 people in the local area.

"We are a place for everyone."

St Christopher's relies on donations to care for patients and those close to them. Please help by contributing to the offering to raise funds to continue this important work. <https://www.stchristophers.org.uk>

Life at St Paul's...

United Christmas Day Family Worship

with South Croydon United Church (at St Paul's)

Sunday 25th December 2022, 10:00am

New Year Quiz

£12pp includes Fish & Chip Supper!

Saturday 6th January 2024, 7pm

Tuesday Guild

Social time, talks, crafts, outings. Check the website for details!

Tuesday's 10:15am (restarts 9th January 2023)

St Paul's Book Club

Croydon Bowling and Sports Club, CR2 6LN

Thursday 11th January, 12:30-2pm

United Prayer Time - Zoom

'Zoom' Meeting ID: 845 5391 2820

Every Friday, 6pm

Sunday Worship

Sunday's, 10:30am

For all future events and activities please see our website

www.stpaulsurc.org.uk/



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

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