



St Paul's
United
Reformed
Church

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Order of Service

Sunday 5th March 2023
Second Sunday of Lent

FOR
God SO loved
THE
world that He GAVE
HIS ONE & ONLY Son,
THAT whoever believes in HIM
shall NOT perish but have
ETERNAL life.
John 3:16

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 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 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

Call to Worship

Lighting our Peace Candle

WE SING: 49 SING PRAISE TO THE LORD!

(Tune: 293 'Laudate Dominum' C.H.H parry)

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Confession

Leader: *Before God,
with the people of God,
I confess to turning away from God
in the ways I wound my life,
the lives of others
and the life of the world.*

**All: MAY GOD FORGIVE YOU, CHRIST RENEW YOU,
AND THE SPIRIT ENABLE YOU TO GROW IN LOVE.**

Leader: Amen

**All: BEFORE GOD,
 WITH THE PEOPLE OF GOD,
 I CONFESS TO TURNING AWAY FROM GOD
 IN THE WAYS I WOUND MY LIFE,
 THE LIVES OF OTHERS
 AND THE LIFE OF THE WORLD.**

Leader: May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
 and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

All: AMEN

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

God so loved the world: *This much*

WE SING: JESUS THE LORD SAYS

**Jesus the Lord says: 'I am the Way,
the true and living Way am I.
The true and living Way am I,
the true and living Way am I.'
Jesus the Lord says: 'I am the Way,
the true and living Way am I.'**

**Jesus the Lord says: 'I am the Light,
the one true light of the world am I.
The one true light of the world am I,
the one true light of the world am I.'
Jesus the Lord says: 'I am the Light,
the one true light of the world am I.**

**Jesus the Lord says: 'God loves the world,
the whole and precious world God loves.
The whole and precious world God loves,
the whole and precious world God loves.
Jesus the Lord said: 'God loves the world,
the whole and precious world God loves.'**

Words: Urdu, translated by Carl Dermott Monahan & Martin Knight (vs.6)

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**

A Prayer of Preparation - *as we read God's word.*

Reading: John 3: 1-17 (pg. 863)

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus^[a] by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." ³ Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above."^[b] ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be

born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You^[c] must be born from above.'^[d] ⁸ The wind^[e] blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

¹¹ "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you^[f] do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.^[g] ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.^[h]

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Reading: Psalm 121 (R&S 725)

¹ lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help come?

² **My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

³ He will not let your foot be moved;
he who watches over you will not fall asleep;

⁴ **behold, he who keeps watch over Israel
shall neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵ the LORD himself watches over you;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

⁶ **so that the sun shall not strike you by day
nor the moon by night.**

⁷ The LORD shall preserve you from all evil;
it is he who shall keep you safe.

⁸ **The LORD shall watch over
your going out and your coming in
from this time forth for evermore.**

WE SING: WHATEVER OUR CONFUSION

(Tune: 566 'Aurelia')

**1. Whatever our confusion, however dark our night,
we each, with Nicodemus, may seek a guiding light;
if we but risk renewal, God's birthing from above,
our stumbling, painful progress can then be lit by love.**

**2. However fixed our habits, however set our ways,
God's spirit of renewal can blow through all our days;
we can't predict its coming or why it should be here,
but love's refreshing presence can blow away our fear.**

3. However great our anguish, the hurts we seek to heal,
there is in Christ's uplifting a rescue rich and real;
for through this stark surrender, God's Son hung crucified,
we're offered life and healing as, for us, Jesus died.

4. With love that knows no limit and disregards its cost,
you've sought the undeserving,
you've summoned all who're lost;
with puzzled Nicodemus, you challenge us to say,
'we will accept your strangeness;
with you, choose life each day?'

Words: John Campbell

God so loved the world: **Radical love**

Prayers for Others

Using 'JESUS CHRIST IS WAITING'

(prayer)

**Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets;
no one is his neighbour, all alone he eats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too;
make me, friend or stranger, fit to wait on you.**

(prayer)

**Jesus Christ is raging, raging in the streets,
where injustice spirals and real hope retreats.
Listen, Lord Jesus I am angry too;
in the Kingdom's causes let me rage with you.**

(prayer)

**Jesus Christ is healing, healing in the streets;
curing those who suffer, touching those he greets.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I have pity too;
let my care be active, healing, just like you.**

(prayer)

**Jesus Christ is dancing, dancing in the streets,
where each sign of hatred he, with love, defeats.
Listen, Lord Jesus I should triumph too;
where good conquers evil let me dance with you.**

(prayer)

**Jesus Christ is calling, calling in the streets,
'Who will join my journey? I will guide their feet.'
Listen, Lord Jesus, let my fears be few:
walk one step before me; I will follow you.**

(prayer)

Words: John L Bell and Graham Maule © 1988 WGRG

**Offering for the work of this church
and Communion Charity offering for:
St Paul's 'Warm Space'**



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: JESUS THE LORD SAYS *(vs 1-2)*

Invitation & 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 GOD THANKS AND PRAISE.

...and so with the choirs of angels in heaven,

and with all Your creation we sing to Your praise and glory:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY,

GOD OF POWER AND MIGHT

HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE FULL OF YOUR GLORY

HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST!

BLESSED IS HE

WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD

HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST!

The Sharing

Prayer after the feast – *on Psalm 103*

WE SING: 95 GOD IS LOVE: LET HEAVEN ADORE HIM

Sending Forth & Blessing

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son.

GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

AND WE ARE SENT TO DO THE SAME.

Coming up...

Tuesday Guild

'Artist Eric Ravilious' – Eastbourne to Iceland, with Cathy Heath
Tuesday 7th March, 10:15am

Service of Thanksgiving for Joan Leslie

Tuesday 7th March, 1pm

WarmSpace

Every Thursday 3:30-6:30pm

United Prayer Time - Zoom

'Zoom' Meeting ID: 845 5391 2820
Every Friday, 7pm

Indoor Boot Sale!

Saturday 11th March, 9:30-12:30

NEW! Bible Breakfast

Enjoy a simple breakfast and explore the readings for Sunday!
Sunday 12th March, 9-10am

Next Sunday Worship

led by Revd. Martin Knight
Sunday 12th March, 10:30am

For all future events and activities please see our website



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