



St Paul's
**United
Reformed
Church**

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Order of Service



Worship for Christian Aid Week

Sunday 16th May 2021



'Song of the Prophets'



Welcome to St Paul's!

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

This morning's service is being led by: **Revd Martin Knight**
The Organ is played by: **Mr George Godsmark**

Important notes:

- It is a joy to welcome you to this service!
St Paul's URC has a **full Covid-19 Risk Assessment**, which is helping to keep everyone safe, so please follow the notices and advice you are given in church.
 - As you can see, we are using printed **Order sheets rather than Hymn books and bibles**. These Orders have been quarantined for 72hrs before the service. All hymns will also appear on the TV screen.
 - **Offertory** – to reduce contact with physical notes and coins at this time, Standing Orders and bank transfers are preferred, but there is also a labelled collection box at the side, where you can place your offertory.
 - Until government guidance changes, there will be **no congregational singing** during our services, but we will find other creative ways of using music!
 - Our service will be **broadcast via zoom** for folk at home.
 - We pray that you will know God's presence as we worship – in church, online, at home, at work or school, and in all places.
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Church Notices

Call to Worship

Left: **O SING TO THE LORD A NEW SONG**

Right: ***SING TO THE LORD, ALL THE EARTH.***

Left: **SING TO THE LORD, BLESS HIS NAME;**

Right: ***TELL OF HIS SALVATION FROM DAY TO DAY.***

Left: **DECLARE HIS GLORY AMONG THE NATIONS**

Right: ***HIS MARVELLOUS WORKS AMONG ALL THE PEOPLES.***

All: **FOR GREAT IS THE LORD,
AND GREATLY TO BE PRAISED.**

MUSIC for reflection: 'Sing for God's Glory'

Sing for God's glory
that colours the dawn of creation,
racing across the sky,
trailing bright clouds of elation;
sun of delight
succeeds the velvet of night,
warming the earth's exultation.

Sing for God's power
that shatters the chains that would hold us,
searing the bleakness of fear
and despair that would mould us,
touching our shame
with love that will not lay blame,
reaching out gently to find us.

Sing for God's saints
who have travelled faith's journey before us,
who in our weariness
give us their hope to restore us;
in them we see
the new creation to be,
spirit of love made flesh for us.

Words: Kathy Galloway

Prayers of Approach

Come and celebrate our common home
WE GATHER WITH THE FAMILY OF HUMANITY.

With the mountains, islands and deserts
WE HONOUR THE GLORY OF GOD IN CREATION.

With the lakes, rivers and seas
WE COME TO THE SOURCE OF LIVING WATER.

With the land, its soil, seeds and sustenance
WE GIVE THANKS FOR GOD'S GENEROUS PROVISION.

With the forests of great trees, the lungs of the planet
WE WILL SING WITH JOY AND CLAP OUR HANDS.

We join with the whole of creation, inspired by those who
have gone before and the prophetic voices of today

**WE DARE TO PRAISE AND PRAY
FOR ANOTHER POSSIBLE WORLD.**

To the glory of God,
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer by Christian Aid Staff around the world

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G7kDVg1zHi0>

SONG OF THE EARTH

Reading: **Psalm 96: 11-13**

*Let the heavens be glad,
and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
let the field exult, and everything in it.
Then shall all the trees of the forest
sing for joy before the Lord;
for he is coming,
for he is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with his truth.*

SONG OF THE YOUNG

Prayer of Lament

Written by 'Glory' from the Philippines

*O God, the heavens are not glad,
the Earth does not rejoice
warming gases fill the atmosphere
pollution turns clean air foul
climate breakdown wreaks havoc.*

*The sea roars with the grief
of all the plastic that fills it
of the destruction of coral reef.
The fields exclaim despair
for delayed rains and prolonged drought
for species extinction on a daily basis.*

*No song of joy rings out
from the trees of the forest
decimated by forest fires.*

*How long O God, how long
until your justice comes for all your creatures
and the Earth?*

In you we put our trust. Amen.

Prayers of Confession and Absolution

God you know us.

You know that we can be loving and kind;
and you know that sometimes we get things wrong.
We're sorry for the times we hurt other people,
forget to listen to you
and don't bother to take care of your world.

God forgive us.

Jesus bless us.

God's Spirit help us to grow in love.

Amen.

Because we are God's people,

We will care for each other.

Because we are part of God's creation,

We will care for the Earth.

Because we are loved by God,

We will share God's love with everyone.

Amen.

SONG OF THE BIBLE PROPHETS

Reading: *based on Micah 6: 1-9*

Listen my people (says God)
I need to talk with you. I have questions.
I need answers.
I have cared for you.
I rescued you from slavery.
I gave you wise leaders, both women and men.
You need to remember the stories of who I am
and what I have done.
Listen my people.
I am talking to those of you who live in the countryside.
I am questioning those of you who live in cities and towns.

What have I done to you (reply the people)?
How have I wearied you?
Speak, the mountains are listening to you.
The Earth is waiting to hear your voice.
What can I do?
What does God want of me?
What will keep God happy?
What will keep God off my back?
Would God be impressed with barrels and barrels of olive oil?
Would God be satisfied with thousands of animals from my flocks?
Perhaps my riches are not enough?
Should I offer to God the life of my precious first-born child?

Listen mortal.
Listen to what God says.
Look carefully at how God acts.
Remember the stories of what God has done.
God has shown you clearly what is bad and what is good.

You are to do justice, to act fairly.
Do justice in the home and in the street
and in the marketplace.
Do justice in your community.
Work with others to do justice globally.
Do justice with strangers and friends and family alike.
You are to love kindness. You are to be generous.
You are to share your resources and share them with a smile.
You are to care for those in need.
You are to walk humbly with God. No pretence, no bluster.
You are to pray and wonder.
You are to respect the Earth.
You are to experience and learn who God is
and what God is about.
Listen up mortal. God has told you what is good. So do it.
Do justice. Love kindness. Walk humbly with your God.

SONG OF CHRISTIAN AID PARTNER in Kenya



Florence's Story

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yuiy_lHby4

Prayers of Intercession

led by Bob Kikuyu

<https://christianaid.resourcespace.com/pages/view.php?ref=4193&k=8ef52b2c89>

MUSIC for reflection: 'The Kingdom of God'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vqCOggQhFyo>

The kingdom of God is justice and joy
for Jesus restores what sin would destroy;
God's power and glory in Jesus we know,
and here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.

The kingdom of God is mercy and grace,
the captives are freed, the sinners find place,
the outcast are welcomed God's banquet to share,
and hope is awakened instead of despair.

The kingdom of God is challenge and choice,
believe the good news, repent and rejoice!
His love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross,
our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.

God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal,
in Jesus begun, in heaven made whole;
the heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call,
and all things cry 'Glory!' to God all in all.

Words: Bryn Rees © Alexander Scott

Church Meeting

MUSIC for reflection: ‘You shall go out with joy’ *(sung twice)*

You shall go out with joy
and be let forth with peace,
and the mountains and the hills
will break forth in singing.
There'll be shouts of joy
and the trees of the fields
will clap, will clap their hands;
and the trees of the fields will clap their hands,
and the trees of the fields will clap their hands,
and the trees of the fields will clap their hands,
while you go out with joy.

Words: Stuart Dauermann

Sending forth & Blessing



St Paul's United Reformed Church

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