



St Paul's
**United
Reformed
Church**

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Order of Service

Sunday 22ND August 2021.



Stand, Stand!

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: **Fran Boto**
The Organ is played by: **Robert Cooper**

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.
 - Please continue to **maintain social distancing** where possible and we encourage people to **wash and sanitise their hands regularly**.
 - The hymns and responses will continue to be in the **Order Sheet and on the TV, but feel free to pick up a Hymn book or Bible should you wish**.
 - In line with the guidance from the URC, **we strongly recommend you continue to wear a mask indoors**, but we recognise this is now a matter of choice.
 - **Offertory** – to reduce contact with physical notes and coins at this time, Standing Orders and bank transfers are preferred (please ask those who welcomed you at the door for more information), but there is also a labelled collection box at the exit, where you can place your offertory.
 - We pray that you will know God's presence as we worship – in church, at home, online, in the garden, at work or school, and in all places.
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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.

We light a candle at the start of the service to remind us all of Christ's message of peace.

Welcome & Notices

Call to Worship

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

Serve the LORD with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!

Know that the LORD, he is God!

It is he who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,

and his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

For the LORD is good;

his steadfast love endures forever,

and his faithfulness to all generations. *Ps 100*

Lighting of the Peace Candle

SONG FOR REFLECTION

based on Psalm 84

How lovely is your dwelling place
Oh Lord, Mighty God, Lord of all. (rpt)

1. Even the lowly sparrow finds a home for her brood
And the swallow a nest for her herself where she may lay her
young;
In your altars my King and my God.

How lovely....

2. Blessed are they whose dwelling is your own
Lord of Peace,
Blest are they refreshed by springs and by rain
When dryness daunts and scathes.
Behold my shield, my King and my God.

How lovely is your dwelling place....

3. I would forsake a thousand other day anywhere
If I could spend one day in your courts, belong to you alone.
My glory, my King and my God.

How lovely.....

Artist Himig Heswita. Posted by mhcaillersrn

<https://youtu.be/5EfejDF85QI>

Prayers of confession and assurance of pardon

The Lord's Prayer

WE SING (seated):

God of grace and God of glory
on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient Church's story
bring her bud to glorious flower,
Grant us wisdom,
grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour.

Lo! The hosts of evil round us
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us,
free our hearts to faith and praise,
Grant us wisdom,
grant us courage,
for the living of these days.

Cure thy children's warring madness;
bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul,
Grant us wisdom,
grant us courage,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore,
let the gift of thy salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom,
grant us courage
serving thee whom we adore. *Words H.E. Fosdick*

Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For our^[a] struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵ As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ With all of these,^[b] take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,^[c] ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

First Reflection: Into the crease!

WE SING (seated): ‘SOLDIERS OF CHRIST ARISE’

Soldiers of Christ! Arise
and put your armour on,
strong in the strength which God supplies
through his eternal Son;
Strong in the Lord of hosts,
and in his mighty power;
Who in the strength of Jesus trusts
is more than conqueror.

Stand, then, in his great might,
With all his strength endued;
And take, to arm you for the fight,
The panoply of God,
To keep your armour bright
Attend with constant care,
Still walking in your Captain’s sight,
And watching unto prayer.

From strength to strength go on;
wrestle, fight, and pray;
Tread all the powers of darkness down,
And win the well fought day,-
That, having all things done,
And all your conflicts passed,
Ye may o'ercome through Christ alone
And stand complete at last.

Second Reflection: Stand, stand!

RESPONSE

SONG FOR REFLECTION 'I BIND UNTO MYSELF TODAY'

- 1 I bind unto myself today
the strong name of the Trinity
by invocation of the same,
the Three in One and One in Three.
- 2 I bind this day to me forever,
by power of faith, Christ's incarnation,
his baptism in the Jordan river,
his death on cross for my salvation,

his bursting from the spiced tomb,
his riding up the heavenly way,
his coming at the day of doom,
I bind unto myself today.

3 I bind unto myself today
the virtues of the starlit heaven,
the glorious sun's life-giving ray,
the whiteness of the moon at even,
the flashing of the lightning free,
the whirling wind's tempestuous shocks,
the stable earth, the deep salt sea
around the old eternal rocks.

4 I bind unto myself today
the power of God to hold and lead,
God's eye to watch, God's might to stay,
God's ear to hearken to my need,
the wisdom of my God to teach,
God's hand to guide, God's shield to ward,
the word of God to give me speech,
God's heavenly host to be my guard.

5 Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.

Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

6 I bind unto myself the name,
the strong name of the Trinity
by invocation of the same,
the Three in One and One in Three,
of whom all nature has creation,
eternal Father, Spirit, Word.
Praise to the Lord of my salvation;
salvation is of Christ the Lord!

Words from 'St. Patrick's breastplate' 5-7th cent. Gaelic
<https://youtu.be/knY-obH9ZoY>

Prayers of Response

WE SING (seated): 'Be thou my vision'

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art -
thou my best thought, in the day or the night,
waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
thou ever with me and I with thee Lord,
thou my great Father, thy child let me be,
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

3 Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight,
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my strong tower;
Raise thou me heav'nward, great Power of my power.

4 Riches I heed not, nor earth's empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

5 High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright sun
grant me its joy after vict'ry is won;
heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Words Ancient Irish poem. Tr. Mary E Byrne and Eleanor H Hull.

Sending forth and Blessing

Information & Notices

We extend a very warm welcome to you!

United Prayer Time on Zoom - Fridays 7.30-8pm

for St Paul's and South Croydon United Church

Zoom log-in details: Meeting ID: 845 5391 2820

Guild Coffee Morning - Thursday 26th 10.30-noon

is at Eleanor and Tony Redshaw's, 86 Croham Road, CR2 7HA. Everyone very welcome.

All 'teams' meeting - Sunday 5th Sept- 11.30

For members of the 3 teams to discuss progress and plans ahead of presentation and discussion at church meeting on 12th September

Book Club - Thursday 9th Sept 7.30pm St Paul's

Discussing Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen, and lots more besides.

Church Family Lunch - Sunday 19th September

*following a special service for those baptised at St Paul's, those married here and **everyone** associated with the life and community of this church and South Croydon United Church. More details and sign-up sheet at coffee.*



St Paul's United Reformed Church

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

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