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# Order of Service

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
*Fifth Sunday of Lent*



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 Jonathan Heaton**

## **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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## **Call to Worship**

### ***Lighting of Peace Candle***

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.*

**DO NOT CAST ME AWAY FROM YOUR PRESENCE,  
AND DO NOT TAKE YOUR HOLY SPIRIT FROM ME.**

*Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.*

## **WE SING: 'JESUS CALLS US HERE TO MEET HIM'**

*(Tune: 'Ode to Joy')*

**Jesus calls us here to meet him  
as, through word and song and prayer,  
we affirm God's promised presence  
where his people live and care.  
Praise the God who keeps his promise;  
praise the Son who calls us friends;  
praise the Spirit who, among us,  
to our hopes and fears attends.**

Jesus calls us to confess him  
Word of life and Lord of all,  
sharer of our flesh and frailness,  
saving all who fail and fall.  
Tell his holy human story;  
tell his tales that all may hear;  
tell the world that Christ in glory  
came to earth to meet us here.

Jesus calls us to each other,  
vastly different though we are,  
creed and colour, faith and gender  
neither limit nor debar.  
Join the hand of friend and stranger;  
join the hands of age and youth;  
join the faithful and the doubter  
in their common search for truth.

*Words: John L. Bell & Graham Maule*

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving, Confession and Assurance**

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**

**Reading:      Jeremiah 31: 31-34    (Pg.642)    A New Covenant**

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the LORD', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

**'Into something new'**

**WE SING: 549    ONE MORE STEP  
                  ALONG THE WORLD I GO**

## 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**

**Reading:**     **John 12: 27-36** (Pg.875) **Jesus speaks about his death**

<sup>27</sup> 'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—  
"Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason  
that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify your name.'  
Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I  
will glorify it again.' <sup>29</sup> The crowd standing there heard it  
and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has  
spoken to him.' <sup>30</sup> Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for  
your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup> Now is the judgement of this  
world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup> And  
I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all  
people<sup>to</sup> to myself.' <sup>33</sup> He said this to indicate the kind of  
death he was to die.

<sup>34</sup> The crowd answered him, 'We have heard from the law  
that the Messiah remains for ever. How can you say that  
the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of  
Man?' <sup>35</sup> Jesus said to them, 'The light is with you for a little  
longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness  
may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do  
not know where you are going. <sup>36</sup> While you have the light,  
believe in the light, so that you may become children of  
light.'

**Responsive Psalm:**

**Psalm 51** (Part 1)

**694** (in Rejoice & Sing)

**WE SING: 100 O LOVE OF GOD,  
HOW STRONG AND TRUE**

*(Tune: 69 'Ombersley')*

## 'Doing a new thing'

**WE SING: 497 GIVE TO ME, LORD,  
A THANKFUL HEART**

### **Prayers for Others**

#### ***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

### **Offering for the work of this church**

**WE SING: 38 THOU WHOSE ALMIGHTY WORD**

### **Sending Forth & Blessing**

# Coming up...

## **Spring-Clean Day**

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 1-5pm** (*Pop in as you are able!*)

## **Tuesday Guild**

*'Craft and Natter'*

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March, 10:15am**

## **Spring-Clean Day**

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March, 12-4pm** (*Pop in as you are able!*)

## **All-Teams Meeting**

*at St Paul's*

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March, 7:45pm**

## **Morning House Group**

*with Martin, held at 372 Selsdon Road*

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 10:30am**

## **Gardening Morning**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 10am-12:00pm**

## **Spring-Clean Day**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 11-3pm** (*Pop in as you are able!*)

## **United Prayer Time - Zoom**

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

**Every Saturday, 8am**

## **Next Sunday Worship – Palm Sunday**

*led by John Ponsford*

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024, 10:30am**

# Holy Week Services

## Maundy Thursday

*United Service with South Croydon United Church and Purley URC  
held at Purley URC*

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March, 7:30pm**

## Good Friday

*United Service with South Croydon United Church  
held at South Croydon United Church*

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March, 9:30am**

## Easter Sunday

*led by Revd. Martin Knight*

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March, 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)



Croham Park Avenue, South Croydon, CR2 7HF [www.stpaulsurc.org.uk](http://www.stpaulsurc.org.uk)

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