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# Order of Service

*Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2024*  
***First Sunday of Epiphany***  
*with Holy Communion*  
*and New Year Recommissioning*



Welcome to St Paul's!

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This morning's service is being led by: **Rev'd Martin Knight**  
The Piano is played by: **Mrs Elaine Leck**

## **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.*

### ***What are the white cloths?***

*We traditionally put these on the pews when we share Holy Communion together. You are invited to sit 'behind' them so you can be served at 'God's table' (it also makes it easier for the servers to reach you).*

## **Church Notices**

### **Call to Worship**

*People of the world, we bring the past with us.*

**WE STEP INTO THE NEW YEAR WITH TRUST**

*People of trust, it is time to celebrate new beginnings.*

**WE STEP INTO THE FUTURE WITH FAITH!**

*People of faith, it is time to look ahead.*

**WE STEP INTO THE UNKNOWN WITH HOPE!**

*People of hope, it is time to walk in the footsteps of Jesus.*

**WE STEP TOGETHER AS GOD'S FAMILY!**

*People of peace, we pray for peace as we light our candle*

**WE STEP INTO THE WORLD IN PEACE.**

*(Peace candle is lit)*

*People of worship, we gather in prayer and praise*

**WE STEP FORWARD**

**AND SING AND HEAR GOD'S WORD**

**REJOICING IN 'EMMANUEL': GOD WITH US!**

**WE SING: 184 AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD**

### **Prayer for the New Year**

#### ***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

# Recommissioning

## **A responsive litany**

*I will ask questions for different parts of our church life,  
so, if you recognise yourself in any or each, please feel free to respond  
– as you are able:*

We start with our young people:

*Will you, as the present and future of our world  
and this church, promise to share your wisdom and energy?*

**WE WILL, AND WE ASK GOD TO HELP AND GUIDE US.**

We ask your Junior Church Leaders and helpers, youth leaders  
and Uniformed Organisation leaders,

*Will you, encourage, strengthen, and uphold,  
and be an example alongside our children and young people,  
of the ways of God?*

**WE WILL, AND WE ASK GOD TO HELP AND GUIDE US.**

We ask our Elders – serving and non-serving,  
and the members of our 3 Teams:

Worship & Discipleship, In & Outreach,  
Maintenance and Resources

*Will you give faithful witness and leadership, building this  
church up, as we see where God's Spirit is guiding us?*

**WE WILL, AND WE ASK GOD TO HELP AND GUIDE US.**

We ask our Secretaries; Bea and Sue,  
and our Treasurer, Dennis:

*Will you continue to share your gifts and skills; helping this  
church to be a sign of God's love and grace?*

**WE WILL, AND WE ASK GOD TO HELP AND GUIDE US.**

We ask those of any age, with wisdom,  
compassion and experience:

*Will you share all that you have learnt  
of God's everlasting love?*

**WE WILL, AND WE ASK GOD TO HELP AND GUIDE US.**

Would you please lead me  
as I renew one of my ordination promises:

*Do you promise to fulfil the duties of your charge faithfully,  
to lead the church in worship,  
to preach the Word and administer the Sacraments,  
to exercise pastoral care and oversight,  
to take your part in the councils of the Church,  
and to give leadership to the Church  
in its mission to the world?*

**I DO, AND I ASK GOD TO HELP AND GUIDE ME**

And this entire congregation; folk who are new or have been  
part of this church for many years:

*Will you work to serve all people,  
following the example of Jesus?*

*Will you strive to work for justice and the proper use  
of God's creation?*

*Will you shine light into this community?*

*Will you guide, encourage, challenge and support one another,  
and in all things strive to live together  
in the peace and unity of Christ?*

**WE WILL, AND WE ASK GOD TO HELP AND GUIDE US.**

As there are many members in one body, so we, though  
many, are one body in Christ.

**Prayer**

## **WE SING: 'BREATHE LIFE INTO OUR WITNESS'**

*(Tune: 164 'Go tell it on the mountain')*

*Breathe life into our witness  
guide us in ways that share your hope  
Breathe life into our witness  
that Jesus' love may show.*

Remind us we are cherished  
refresh our lives again  
restore us in your image  
redeem us, make us whole.

*Breathe life into our witness*

Rebalance how we worship  
repeat your gospel word  
rejoicing in communion  
revealing hope and love.

*Breathe life into our witness*

You love without condition  
you call us 'do the same'.  
Your love is never ending,  
as church we lift your name!

*Breathe life into our witness*

*Words: Sam Goodman, alt. Martin Knight*

### **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**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped,<sup>l</sup> they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**Acts 19: 1-10** (Pg.903)

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples.

<sup>2</sup> He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' <sup>3</sup> Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.' <sup>4</sup> Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.' <sup>5</sup> On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—  
<sup>7</sup> altogether there were about twelve of them.

<sup>8</sup> He entered the synagogue and for three months spoke out boldly, and argued persuasively about the kingdom of God. <sup>9</sup> When some stubbornly refused to believe and spoke evil of the Way before the congregation, he left them, taking the disciples with him, and argued daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. <sup>10</sup> This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia, both Jews and Greeks, heard the word of the Lord.

*Christ made manifest for all!*



**WE SING: 191 SONGS OF THANKFULNESS  
AND PRAISE**

Offering for the work of this church  
and Communion Charity offering for:

***Freedom from Torture***



***Holy Communion***

*(The bread is gluten free and non-alcoholic juice is available on each tray)*

***Invitation & The Peace***

*The peace of the Lord be with you,*  
**AND ALSO WITH YOU**

**WE SING: 452 LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER**

***The Story Remembered***

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

*As Jesus prayed at the meal he shared with his friends,  
we do the same.*

*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 OUR THANKS AND PRAISE**

...

*...and so, we lift our voices with believers from every time and  
place, saying the hymn of unending praise:*

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD  
GOD OF POWER AND MIGHT  
HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE FULL OF YOUR GLORY  
HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST.  
BLESSED IS THE ONE  
WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD.  
HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST!**

## **Prayers for Others & Confession**

### **The Sharing & Prayer after the feast**

**WE SING: SENT BY THE LORD AM I** *(sing twice)*  
my hands are ready now  
to make the earth a place  
in which the kingdom comes.  
Sent by the Lord am I;  
my hands are ready now  
to make the earth a place  
in which the kingdom comes.

The angels cannot change  
a world of hurt and pain  
into a world of love,  
of justice and of peace.  
The task is mine to do,  
to set it really free.  
O help me to obey;  
help me to do your will.

*Words© Jorge Maldonado*

### **Sending Forth & Blessing**

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**All are welcome to join us for refreshments  
and time together, in the halls, after the service!**

# Coming up...

## Tuesday Guild

*'A butterfly ramble to Hutchinson's Bank', with Rev David Pickering*

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 10:15am**

## United Prayer Time - Zoom

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

**Every Saturday, 8am**

## Bible Breakfast

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January, 9am**

## Next Sunday Worship

*led by Rev'd Martin Knight*

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 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)



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