
Order of Service

Sunday 10th December 2023
Second Sunday of Advent

GIFT SERVICE



Welcome to St Paul's!

This morning's service is being led by: **Rev'd Martin Knight**
The Organ is played by: **Mr Robert Cooper**

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

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.

Church Notices

Lighting our Peace Candle

Call to Worship

WE SING: GOD HAS SPOKEN BY THE PROPHETS

(Tune: 663i 'Hyfrydol')

**God has spoken – by the prophets,
spoken true, unchanging words;
each from age to age proclaiming
God, the one, the righteous Lord.
'Mid the world's despair and turmoil
one firm anchor holding fast:
God eternal reigns forever,
God the first, and God the last.**

God has spoken – by Christ Jesus,
Christ, the everlasting Son,
brightness of God's blazing glory,
with our God forever one;
spoken by the Word incarnate,
God from God, ere time was born;
Light from Light, to earth descending,
Christ, revealing God to all.

God is speaking – by the Spirit,
speaking to our hearts again,
in the ago-long word expounding
God's own message, now as then.
Through the rise and fall of nations
one sure faith is standing fast;
God still speaks, the Word unchanging,
God the first, and God the last.

Words: George Wallace Briggs, adpt. Martin Knight

Giving of Gifts for Purley Food Hub

Prayer of Thanksgiving



'The Gift to be Free' by Bob Chilcott, sung by 'The King's Singers
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ui3tfKBYQ0s>

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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
The power and the glory Forever and ever. Amen

Lighting the 2nd Advent Candle

(In separate booklet and on screen)

USEFUL GIFTS

WE SING: COLOURS OF DAY DAWN INTO THE MIND,
the sun has come up, the night is behind.
Go down in the city, into the street,
and let's give the message to the people we meet.

*So light up the fire and let the flame burn,
open the door, let Jesus return.*

*Take seeds of his Spirit, let the fruit grow,
tell the people of Jesus, let his love show.*

Go through the park, on into the town;
the sun still shines on; it never goes down.
The light of the world is risen again;
the people of darkness are needing a friend.

So light up the fire...

Words© Sue McClelan, John Paculabo and Keith Rycroft

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**

Readings: Isaiah 40: 1-8 (Pg.446)

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.
²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her
that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

Micah 5: 2-6

(Pg.756)

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of
the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

⁵and he shall be the one of peace.
If the Assyrians come into our land
and tread upon our soil,
we will raise against them seven shepherds
and eight installed as rulers.

⁶They shall rule the land of Assyria with the sword,
and the land of Nimrod with the drawn sword;
they shall rescue us from the Assyrians
if they come into our land
or tread within our border.

Mark 1: 1-8

(Pg.812)

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight",

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

WE SING: O TROUBLED TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

(Tune: 145 'Forest Green')

**O troubled town of Bethlehem,
with conflict still you lie.
Above your deep but restless sleep
indifferent stars go by;
yet in your dark streets may you find
resilient, endless light:
for hopes and fears of all the years
were borne in you one night.**

For Mary's child was born, and cried,
unnerving powers-above,
whilst God of Life who shares our strife
en-couraged hope and love.
Now Israel's bombs and Hamas hate
obscure such hopeful births;
but mothers sing of everything –
their prayer still 'peace on earth.'

O daring child of Bethlehem,
empower us all, we pray,
to work for peace that wars may cease
and love be born today.
With all the nations' angels
proclaiming we shall tell:
"Heal Bethlehem, join 'us' with 'them'" –
Amen, Immanuel!

Words© Graham Adams

WHEN GIFTS DON'T FEEL LIKE GIFTS.

WE SING: COMFORT, COMFORT NOW MY PEOPLE
speak of peace – so says your God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness,
burdened by a heavy load.
To Jerusalem proclaim:
God shall take away your shame.
Now get ready to recover;
guilt and suffering and over.

Hear the herald's proclamation
in the desert far and near,
calling all to true repentance,
telling that the Lord is near.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
For your God prepare a way.
Let the valleys rise to greet him
and the hills bow down to meet him.

Straighten out what has been crooked,
make the roughest places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
live as fits God's holy reign.
Soon the glory of the Lord
shall on earth be shed abroad.
All the world shall surely see it.
God is ready to decree it.

*Words: Isaiah, adpt: Johannes Olearious,
trl: Cathering Winkworth, revised John L. Bell*

Prayers for Others & Confession

Offering for the work of this church

WE SING: 134 ON JORDAN'S BANK

Sending Forth & Blessing

**All are welcome to join us for our Christmas Lunch, in
the halls, after the service!**



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