

Minister:

Revd. Martin Knight 07392 463961 minister1@stpaulsurc.org.uk

Church Secretaries:

**Sue Eardley** 

07971 068887 eardleys@virginmedia.com

**Bea Pollard** 

020 8657 0162 ronandbea@btinternet.com

## **Order of Service**

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2023 Fourth Sunday of Epiphany



Welcome to St Paul's!

#### It is a joy to welcome you to this service!

If you do not attend a church elsewhere, we invite you to join regularly with us in our Sunday worship and other activities – see <a href="https://www.stpaulsurc.org.uk">www.stpaulsurc.org.uk</a>

Feel free to spend time before worship for quiet preparation, especially once the music begins. We light a candle at the start of the service 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: JESUS CALLS US HERE TO MEET HIM

(Tune: 663 'Hyfrydol')

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 and Graham Maule

### **Prayer of Praise & Confession**

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

#### 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

## **YOUR VOICE IS POWERFUL'**

**Reading:** Micah 6: 1-8 (pg. 757)

Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup> Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 'O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

<sup>4</sup> For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent before you Moses,

Aaron, and Miriam.

<sup>5</sup> O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised.

what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.'

- 6 'With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings, with calves a year old?
- Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?
  Shall Laive my firstborn for my transgression

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?'

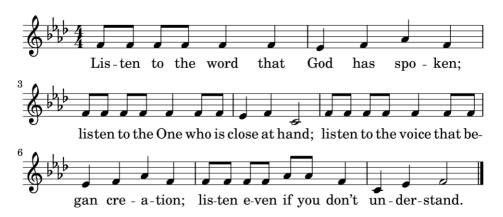
<sup>8</sup> He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

#### **WE SING: 629 MAKE ME A CHANNEL OF YOUR PEACE**

#### 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

#### WE SING: LISTEN TO THE WORD

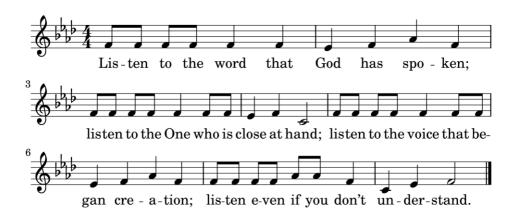


**Reading:** Matthew 5: 1-12 (pg. 785)

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

- <sup>3</sup> 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 4 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
- <sup>5</sup> 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
- <sup>6</sup> 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
- <sup>7</sup> Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
- <sup>8</sup> 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
- <sup>9</sup> 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
- <sup>10</sup> 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- <sup>11</sup> 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.
- <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

#### WE SING: LISTEN TO THE WORD



Canadian, transcribed by John L. Bell

#### **Reading:** 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25 (pg. 926)

- <sup>18</sup> For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written,
- 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.'
- <sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

## 'SPEAKING AND LISTENING'

WE SING: 'MAKE US YOUR PROPHETS, LORD'

(Tune: 294 'Down Ampney')

Make us your prophets, Lord, who truly hear your word, which fires us with your own inspiration. In all we say and do prove that your love is true; the hope and source of peace for every nation.

And when we fail to love or set ourselves above our neighbours with their different ways of seeing, bring us with all our pride where Jesus, crucified, for love of all, committed his whole being.

In faith and hope we pray, use us to serve that day when bigotry and hatred are defeated, when perfect peace is won and lasting justice done, with love's eternal promises completed.

Words: Alan Gaunt

#### **Prayers for Others**

**'Kyrie'** from 'The Armed Man': A mass for Peace by Karl Jenkins

## Offering for the work of this church

WE SING: 'COMMUNITY OF CHRIST'

(Tune: 121 'Leoni')

Community of Christ,
who make the Cross your own,
live out your creed and risk your life
for God alone:
the God who wears your face,
to whom all worlds belong,
whose children are of every race
and every song.

Community of Christ, look past the Church's door and see the refugee, the hungry, and the poor. Take hands with the oppressed, the jobless in your street, take towel and water, that you wash your neighbour's feet.

Community of Christ, through whom the word must sound – cry out for justice and for peace the whole world round: disarm the powers that war and all that can destroy, turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish into joy. When menace melts away, so shall God's will be done, the climate of the world be peace and Christ it's Sun; our currency be love and kindliness our law, our food and faith be shared as one for evermore.

Words© Shirley Erena Murray

#### **Sending Forth & Blessing**

WE SING: 479 SHALOM, MY FRIENDS!

We go, in peace, to love and serve the Lord. **IN THE NAME OF CHRIST.** Amen

## Coming up...

### **Tuesday Guild**

International Needs Charity
Small Hall
Tuesday 31st January, 10:15am

## **Prayers for Peace**

The Sanctuary **Tuesday 31**st **January, 12-1pm** 

### **M&R Team Meeting**

Vestry Meeting Room
Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January, 8pm

## **Elders' Meeting**

Vestry Meeting Room
Wednesday 1st February, 8pm

## **United Prayer Time - Zoom**

for St Paul's and South Croydon United Church 'Zoom' Meeting ID: 845 5391 2820

**Every Friday, NEW TIME of 7pm** 

# **Next Sunday Worship, with Holy Communion** *led by Rev'd Martin Knight*

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2023, 10:30am

For all future events and activities please see our website



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