



Minister:
Rev. Martin Knight
07392 463961 minister1@stpaulsurc.org.uk

Church Secretaries:
Sue Eardley
07971 068887 eardeleys@virginmedia.com
Bea Pollard
020 8657 0162 ronandbea@btinternet.com

Order of Service

Sunday 7th May 2023
with Holy Communion



Church
Anniversary

Welcome to St Paul's!

This morning's service is being led by: **Rev'd Martin Knight**
The Organ is played by: **Mrs Pam Vaughn**

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 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 gather, looking back to see the paths taken,
LOOKING ONWARD WITH HEADS HELD HIGH.

We honour those who have gone before us,
LEARNING FROM THEIR SUCCESSES AND STRUGGLES.

We celebrate who we are today,
**AND WELCOME THE POSSIBILITIES
AND OPPORTUNITIES BEFORE US.**

We gather to worship God,
THE GOD OF YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW.

**WE SING: 559 CHRIST IS MADE
THE SURE FOUNDATION**

(vs. 2-4)

Anniversary Prayer of Thanksgiving

Giving Thanks!

Act of Commitment – *(please stand as you are able)*

**LORD JESUS CHRIST,
AS WE GATHER THIS MORNING
WE COMMIT OURSELVES AGAIN
TO BUILDING AND ALWAYS BECOMING
YOUR CHURCH IN THIS PLACE.**

**WE GROW FROM THE ROOTS OF OUR FOUNDERS
PERCIVAL BEDDOW
HENRY DARLEY
WILLIAM JEATER
PERCY PHILLIPS
THOMAS COMLEY
GEORGE GOODSIR
ROBERT MCMINN
JOHN REID**

**AND THE WOMEN AND MEN
WHO HAVE CALLED THIS PLACE HOME
OVER THE GENERATIONS;
WHO HAVE DONE JUSTICE, LOVED KINDNESS
AND WALKED HUMBLY WITH GOD
IN SOUTH CROYDON AND BEYOND.**

**IN THANKSGIVING, WE RECOMMIT OURSELVES
TO USE ALL THAT YOU HAVE GIVEN US
TO SHARE THE GOSPEL AND LIVE YOUR KINGDOM,
IN LOVE AND PRAISE OF GOD OUR CREATOR
CHRIST OUR SAVIOUR
AND THE SPIRIT WHO INSPIRES AND GUIDES. AMEN**

WE SING: 469 AS WE ARE GATHERED

(twice)

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:

Psalm 121 *(said responsively)*

*I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?*

**MY HELP COMES FROM THE LORD,
THE MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH.**

*He will not let your foot be moved
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep;*
**BEHOLD, HE WHO KEEPS WATCH OVER ISRAEL
SHALL NEITHER SLUMBER NOR SLEEP.**

*the Lord himself watches over you;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,*
**SO THAT THE SUN SHALL NOT STRIKE YOU BY DAY,
NOR THE MOON BY NIGHT.**

*The Lord shall preserve you from all evil;
it is he who shall keep you safe.*
**THE LORD SHALL WATCH OVER YOUR GOING OUT
AND YOUR COMING IN,
FROM THIS TIME FORTH FOR EVERMORE.**

Micah 6: 6-8

(Pg.757)

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?
⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"
⁸ 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?

1 Peter 1: 22-25, 2:1-10

(Pg.984)

²² Now that you have purified your souls by your
obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual
love, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³ You have
been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable
seed, through the living and enduring word of God. ²⁴ For
*'All flesh is like grass
and all its glory like the flower of grass.
The grass withers, and the flower falls,
²⁵ but the word of the Lord endures for ever.'*

That word is the good news that was announced to you.

^{2:1} Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile,
insincerity, envy, and all slander. ² Like newborn infants,
long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow
into salvation— ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is
good.

⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals
yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵ like living

stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture:

*'See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.'*

⁷ To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

*'The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner', ⁸ and*

*'A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall.'*

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

WE SING: 'THEY DID NOT BUILD IN VAIN'

(Tune 118 'Leoni')

**They did not build in vain who founded here a church
as witness to God's love amid a world of pain;
they built upon the rock that is the risen Christ,
the one foundation laid, that stands each earthly shock.**

In every place our world is storm and tempest tossed,
the flames of fear and hate are evil's flags unfurled;
yet still the Spirit's power in wind and fire of love
pours gifts upon the church for service in this hour.

Those who have loved this place, a cloud of witnesses,
surround and urge us on as we now run our race;
though the horizon's bend conceals the way ahead,
the footprints on the road show Christ waits at the end.

Words - Alan Luff, 1989; alt.

2073 - What does God require?

**WE SING: 302 O BREATH OF LIFE,
COME SWEEPING THROUGH US**

Prayers for Others

The Lords' 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*

Offering for the work of this church

& Communion Charity offering for Christian Aid,
ahead of Christian Aid Week



Holy Communion

Introduction & The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you,

AND ALSO WITH YOU

WE SING: 'Te Deum'

(used throughout Communion)

(Tune: 21 'Old hundredth')

**We praise, we worship thee, O God,
thy sovereign power we sound abroad:
all nations bow before thy throne,
and thee the eternal Father own.**

Invitation & The Story

Great Prayer

...and so, with all creation, we sing:

**Loud alleluias to thy name
angels and seraphim proclaim:
the heavens and all the powers on high
with rapture constantly do cry,**

**'O holy, holy, holy Lord!
Thou God of hosts, by all adored;
earth and the heavens are full of thee,
thy light, thy power, thy majesty.'**

*You gave us the words of your prophets,
the stories of your people through the generations,
the founders of this church
and the gathered wisdom of many years.*

**Prophets join the glorious throng
and swell the loud immortal song;
saints enraptured hear the sound
and spread the alleluia round.**

...today, and every day to come.

**Glory to thee, O God most high!
Father, we praise thy majesty,
the Son, the Spirit, we adore:
one Godhead, blest for evermore!**

'Te deum laudamus (Latin, 4th cent.)

Sharing & Thanksgiving Prayer

**WE SING: 603 LORD, FOR THE YEARS
YOUR LOVE HAS KEPT AND GUIDED**

Sending forth & Blessing

P.T.O for 'Coming up this week...'

*Our minister, Martin, is away at a gathering of Synod Leaders from
Monday to Thursday next week,
but is contactable by email or message, if urgent.*

Coming up...

Tuesday Guild

Is on its break, until Garden Coffee Mornings begin on 11th July.

Prayers for Peace

Each Tuesday, 12-1pm

St Paul's Book Club

*Coach House Café, Coombe Wood Gardens, Coombe Lane, CR0 5RQ
'The Various Haunts of Men by Susan Hill*

Thursday 11th May, 12:30pm

Garden 'Dig Day'

Please come along with your spade, fork, loppers or secateurs at any point during the day, to help in our community garden!

Thursday 11th May, 9-5pm *(also 16th & 20th May, 10-5pm)*

Synod Area Prayer - Zoom

'Zoom' Meeting ID: 896 3882 1888

Password: URC50

Every Thursday, 5pm

United Prayer Time - Zoom

'Zoom' Meeting ID: 845 5391 2820

Every Friday, 7pm

Next Sunday Worship

'Christian Aid Week' led by Rev'd Martin Knight

Sunday 14th May 2023, 10:30am



For all future events and activities please see our website



Thursday 11th May, 9-12, 3-5
Tuesday 16th May, 10-12, 2-5
Saturday 20th May, 10-1, 2-5
Give an hour or a day!

DIG DAYS

Can you offer some time to our
Community Garden project?
(refreshments provided!)

We have
limited tools,
so bring your
own and we'll
find you a job!

- Digging
- Pruning
- Weeding
- Clearing
- Woodwork
- Donate plants



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

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