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Order of Service

Sunday 3rd December 2023
with Holy Communion



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 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

Lighting our Peace Candle to mark World Aids Day



Call to Worship

Left: Among the poor,
Right: among the proud,
Left: among the persecuted,
Right: among the privileged,

Leader: Christ is coming,

ALL: HE IS COMING TO MAKE ALL THINGS NEW.

Left: In the private house,
Right: in the rented flat,
Left: in the wedding feast,
Right: in the criminal courts,

Leader: Christ is coming,

ALL: HE IS COMING TO MAKE ALL THINGS NEW.

Left: With a gentle touch,
Right: with an angry word,
Left: with a silent prayer,
Right: with burning love,

Leader: Christ is coming,

ALL: HE IS COMING TO MAKE ALL THINGS NEW.

Left: That the kingdom might come,
Right: that the world might believe,
Left: that the wolf live with the lamb,
Right: that a little child will lead them,

Leader: Christ is coming,

ALL: HE IS COMING TO MAKE ALL THINGS NEW.

Left: Within us,
Right: without us,
Left: among us,
Right: before us,
Left: in this place,
Right: in every place,
Left: for this time,
Right: for all time,

Leader: Christ is coming,

ALL: HE IS COMING TO MAKE ALL THINGS NEW.

WE SING: 138 COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

(Tune: 355 'Cross of Jesus')

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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 1st Advent Candle (Prophecy Candle)

Hope

(One candle is lit)

Leader: *A candle burns,
 the first marker of our Advent Journey.
 As we set out,
 may we travel hopefully, inspired by the prophets.
 As we set out,*

All: **GOD, EMMANUEL, TRAVEL WITH US**

We sing: **Long ago, prophets knew
 Christ would come, born a Jew,
 come to make all things new;
 bear his people's burden,
 freely love and pardon:
 Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
 Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
 *When he comes, when he comes,
 who will make him welcome?***

(Tune: 274 'Theodoric')

Stop! Wait!

WE SING: 'O LORD, HOW SHALL I MEET YOU?'

(Tune: 208 'St Theodulph')

O Lord, how shall I meet you?

how welcome you aright?

Your people long to greet you

my hope, my heart's delight.

All glory laud and honour

to you redeemer King,

to whom the lips of children

made sweet hosanna's ring

O Lord, how shall I meet you,

how welcome you aright?

Your people long to greet you

my hope, my heart's delight.

O God, your incarnation,

love brought you down to me.

Your thirst for my salvation

procured my liberty.

O Lord, how shall I meet you,

how welcome you aright?

Your people long to greet you

my hope, my heart's delight.

A multitude of pilgrims

with palms before you went

our praise and prayers and anthems

before you we present

O Lord, how shall I meet you,

how welcome you aright?

Your people long to greet you

my hope, my heart's delight.

Words: Paul Gerhardt / Theodulph of Orleans, 821ce

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 64: 1-4 (Pg.606)

¹O that you would tear open the heavens
and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence -
² as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil -
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble
at your presence!
³ When you did awesome deeds
that we did not expect, you came down,
the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴ From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

Mark 13: 24-27, 32-36 (Pg.826)

The Coming of the Son of Man

²⁴ 'But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,
²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶ Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds"
with great power and glory. ²⁷ Then he will send out the
angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the
ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

The Necessity of Watchfulness

³² 'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵ Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.

Waiting - 'each with our work'

WE SING: WHEN LISTENING PROPHETS DARE TO SPEAK

(Tune: 69 'Ombelsey')

**When listening prophets dare to speak,
love thunders like an ocean wave,
old wineskins burst, stone columns quake,
and dry bones rise up from the grave.**

**True prophets challenge us to change,
to wake and wonder, risk and grow,
and when the way ahead seems strange,
to name the fear and let it go.**

**God bid us rise to speak and move
like prophets on a lighted stage,
unmasking fear, revealing love,
and making peace from age to age.**

Words: Daniel Charles Damon

Prayers for Others & Confession

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



Advent Communion

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

Invitation

God's Banquet is coming.

The time we await,

when all will gather from North, East, West and South.

**A BANQUET WHERE THE RICH AND POWERFUL
WILL SIT WITH THE WEAK AND POVERTY-STRICKEN.**

**A TABLE WHERE YOUNG AND OLD
WILL LEARN FROM EACH OTHER.**

**A TIME WHEN ALL WILL SIT TOGETHER IN PEACE,
"AND THE WOLF WILL LIE DOWN WITH THE LAMB".**

Here at this table we get a foretaste of God's banquet.

This is indeed God's table, not the church's,

*and so all who seek to follow His Way
are welcome to eat and drink from it.*

**COME AND TASTE THE GRACE ETERNAL,
COME AND SEE THAT GOD IS GOOD.**

The Great Thanksgiving

God is with us

WE ARE NOT ALONE

Christ is present here

THE SPIRIT MOVES WITHIN US

Let us give thanks to God

IN MEMORY AND IN HOPE

Blessings be to you, Creator God,

who in the beginning brought light and life to the world

and who continues to bring it love and light everlasting.

YOUR SONG OF WISDOM ECHOES THROUGH THE AGES,

YOUR ANCIENT PROMISE STILL BRINGS US HOPE.

*Over the ages you have called people to embrace your hope
and share your love. But even when they have closed their ears
to the song you did not stop singing. You sent prophets and
messengers to your people, reminding them of the promised
time of peace and justice that would surround the world.*

THEY CAME IN THE MIDST OF OUR DESPAIR

AND FILLED US WITH HOPE.

And then you came to a young woman named Mary

and laid out the promise in a new way

PROMISING HER A SON, WHO WOULD BE CALLED JESUS

PROMISING THAT IN HER SON

THE WORLD WOULD BE CHANGED

And now as we prepare for that child to be born,

we lift our voices in song,

singing together the praise of the ages:

(Tune: 205 'It came upon...')

O holy holy holy God,
O God of time and space.
All earth and sea and sky above
bear witness to your Grace.
Hosanna in the highest heav'n,
creation sings your praise.
And blessed is the One who comes
and bears Your name always

The Story Remembered

*As we prepare to celebrate his birth,
we remember the life that this baby will live.*

WE REMEMBER

**HOW HE BROKE THE BONDS OF HUMAN TRADITION,
TO SHOW ALL WHAT THE BANQUET OF HOPE COULD BE,
AS HE ATE OPENLY WITH THE DESPISED AND THE
OUTCAST OF HIS WORLD.**

*And we remember one special meal,
foretaste of the banquet that is to come,
that he ate with his closest friends.*

**GATHERING THEM TOGETHER IN AN UPPER ROOM
TO SHARE THE STORY OF LIBERATION.**

*And at the end of the meal he took bread, blessed and broke it,
then passed it to them saying:*

TAKE AND EAT.

**THIS BREAD IS THE BODY OF LIFE,
BROKEN BY THE WORLD.**

EAT IT IN REMEMBRANCE AND IN HOPE.

*After that he took the cup, blessed it,
and passed it to them saying:*

**THIS CUP IS THE SIGN OF THE NEW COVENANT.
WHENEVER YOU DRINK IT REMEMBER ME.**

*Remembering the birth of the child in the stable,
we remember also his life, his death and his resurrection.*

**WE REMEMBER HOW HE Poured HIS LOVE OUT
TO ALL HE MET
AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO HIS RETURN
AND THE COMING REIGN OF PEACE, LOVE, AND JUSTICE.**

And in our remembering, we sing the mystery of faith:

**Sing Christ has died and Christ is ri-sen,
Christ will come again!
His kingdom reigns forever more
Wherever love is known!**

(repeat)

The Spirit Transforms

*God, you poured your Spirit on Mary
and she sang words of defiance and hope.
Pour out your Spirit upon us gathered here.
As we eat and drink may we know your presence.
As we eat and drink may we be filled with hope
and strengthened, in this time of waiting for peace and justice.
And the people all sang:*

**Amen, amen, O Holy One!
Hosanna and amen!
Sing all the people of the earth
Hosanna and amen!**

(repeat)

The Sharing

Prayer after the feast

*God of pregnant expectations,
God of Christmas promise,
God of child-like hope, we have shared at your table.*

**MAY THE EATING AND THE DRINKING
FILL US WITH HOPE IN A WORLD OF DESPAIR.
MAY WE BE BEACONS OF HOPE
AS WE WAIT FOR THE DAY
WHEN THE WORLD WILL BE CHANGED.**

*Grant that this taste of your banquet which is to come,
will give us the hunger for peace and justice
in our community and around the world.*

AMEN

**WE SING: 131 THE VOICE OF GOD
GOES OUT TO ALL THE WORLD**

(Tune: 740 'Woodlands' – omit vs.3)

Sending Forth & Blessing

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



Christmas at St Paul's

Croham Park Avenue, South Croydon, CR2 7HF

Welcome to your Church!

Sunday 10th December 10:30am

Christmas Gift Service

Food donations will go to the Purley Food Hub

Saturday 16th December

All Age Christmas Party 3:30pm - 5:30pm

Mirror Festival 5:30pm - 7pm

Sunday 17th December 10:30am

Nativity Service

led by St Paul's Junior Church

Christmas Eve 6:30pm

Carols by Candlelight

Free festive refreshments after the service

Christmas Day 10am

Family Christmas Service

For more information please visit

www.stpaulsurc.org.uk

This week both Rutherford and Coombe Wood Schools are using our buildings and learning about our faith and action in South Croydon. Please pray your both schools and all Children & Young People!



FOOD LIST - CHRISTMAS/DECEMBER 2023



At Purley Food Hub we provide food and other items to local people in crisis. Please consider donating one or more items from our **Top Ten priority list for December:**

-  Tins of Plain Meat - Chicken, Ham
-  Packet & Tinned Potatoes
-  Tinned Peas & Carrots
-  Tinned Dessert Fruit
-  Puddings / Jellies / Packet Custard
-  Small Bottles of Squash
-  **Jars of Red Jam - Strawberry, Raspberry**
-  Christmas Biscuits
-  Children's Chocolate / Sweet Treats
-  Toothpaste and Adults' & Children's Toothbrushes

*Thank you so much everyone for your continued generosity - over the past 10 years you have kindly helped us to provide nearly **330,000 meals for 36,000 hard-hit clients & family members.***



PURLEY FOOD HUB

Tel: 07546 635295 | Email: purleyfoodhub@gmail.com

Website: www.purleyfoodhub.net

Charity no: 1152807 | Company no: 08557885

Churches
Together
"Purley & Kenley"

Coming up...

Tuesday Guild

'The gospel according to Shakespeare', with Peter Graystone

Tuesday 5th December, 10:15am

Maintenance & Resources Team

Tuesday 5th December, 8pm

Short Service for Peace

Meeting ID: 845 5391 2820 / Password: 1111

Friday's, 7:45-8:15pm

United Prayer Time - Zoom

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

Every Saturday, 8am

Bible Breakfast

Sunday 10th December 2023, 9am

Next Sunday Worship – Gift Service

led by Rev'd Martin Knight

Please bring your Christmas food gifts for Purley Food Hub

The recent Food List is on page 15

Sunday 10th December 2023, 10:30am

Christmas Lunch, after worship!

For all future events and activities please see our website



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

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