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# Order of Service

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023



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: **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 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.*

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## Church Notices

### *Lighting our Peace Candle*

#### Call to Worship

*Come and worship the God of Harvest!*

**WE COME AND CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF PLENTY!**

**WE COME TO ACT FOR THOSE WITHOUT ENOUGH!**

*Come, ye thankful people, come!*

## **WE SING: 40 COME, YE THANKFUL PEOPLE, COME**

**Reading: Deuteronomy 26: 1-11** (pg.158)

<sup>1</sup>When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, <sup>2</sup>you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. <sup>3</sup>You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, *'Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.'*

<sup>4</sup>When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, <sup>5</sup>you shall make this response before the LORD your God:

*'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. <sup>6</sup>When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, <sup>7</sup>we cried to the LORD, the God of our*

ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. <sup>8</sup> The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; <sup>9</sup> and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>10</sup> So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.'

You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. <sup>11</sup> Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

## **Prayer of Praise & Thanks**

### **Gifts for Purley Food bank**

#### ***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

# Play your (CO<sup>2</sup>) cards right

**WE SING: 42 FOR THE FRUITS OF ALL CREATION**

*(Tune: 'Ar hyd y nos')*

<sup>16</sup> Then he told them a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly. <sup>17</sup> And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?" <sup>18</sup> Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup> And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." <sup>20</sup> But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" <sup>21</sup> So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.'

## How much is too much?

### **WE SING: 'PRAISE GOD FOR THE HARVEST'**

*(Tune 556 'Stowey')*

**Praise God for the harvest of orchard and field,  
praise God for the people who gather their yield,  
the long hours of labour, the skills of a team,  
the patience of science, the power of machine.**

**Praise God for the harvest that comes from afar,  
from market and harbour, the sea and the shore:  
foods packed and transported, and gathered and grown  
by God-give neighbours, unseen and unknown.**

**Praise God for the harvest that's quarried and mined,  
then sifted, and smelted, or shaped and refined:  
for oil and for iron, for copper and coal,  
praise God, who in love has provided them all.**

**Praise God for the harvest of science and skill,  
the urge to discover, create and fulfil:  
for dreams and inventions that promise to gain  
a future more hopeful, a world more humane.**

**Praise God for the harvest of mercy and love  
from leaders and peoples who struggle and serve  
for patience and kindness, that all may be led  
to freedom and justice, and all may be fed.**

*Words: Brian Wren (1960s)*

**Readings: Matthew 13: 1-9**

*(Pg.794)*

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. <sup>2</sup>Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying:

'Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>Let anyone with ears listen!'

**Let's be good soil!**

**WE SING: 'BEAUTY FOR BROKENNESS'**

hope for despair,  
Lord, in your suffering world  
this is our prayer.  
Bread for the children,  
justice, joy, peace,  
sunrise to sunset,  
Your kingdom increase!

Shelter for fragile lives,  
cures for their ills,  
work for the craftsmen,  
trade for their skills;  
land for the dispossessed,  
rights for the weak,  
voices to plead the cause  
of those who can't speak.

*God of the poor,  
friend of the weak,  
give us compassion we pray:  
melt our cold hearts,  
let tears fall like rain;  
come, change our love  
from a spark to a flame.*

Refuge from cruel wars,  
havens from fear,  
cities for sanctuary,  
freedoms to share.  
Peace to the killing-fields,  
scorched earth to green,  
Christ for the bitterness,  
His cross for the pain.

**Rest for the ravaged earth,  
oceans and streams  
plundered and poisoned –  
our future, our dreams.  
Lord, end our madness,  
carelessness, greed;  
make us content with  
the things that we need.**

***God of the poor,  
friend of the weak,  
give us compassion we pray:  
melt our cold hearts,  
let tears fall like rain;  
come, change our love  
from a spark to a flame.***

**Lighten our darkness,  
breathe on this flame  
until your justice  
burns brightly again.  
Until the nations  
learn of your ways,  
seek your salvation  
and bring you their praise**

***God of the poor,  
friend of the weak,  
give us compassion we pray:  
melt our cold hearts,  
let tears fall like rain;  
come, change our love  
from a spark to a flame.***

*Words: Graham Kendrick*



**Prayers for Others**

**Offering for the work of this church**

**WE SING: 124 WE PLOUGH THE FIELDS  
AND SCATTER**

**Sending forth & Blessing**

**All are welcome to join us for refreshments and our  
Harvest Lunch, as we share time together in the halls,  
after the service!**





# Coming up...

## Tuesday Guild

*Knit, natter and Shoebox wrapping!!!*

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September, 10:30am**

## United Prayer Time – Zoom – **NEW DAY & TIME**

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

*If you would like us to pray for you or a person/situation close to you, please message/email Martin or Sue.*

**Every Saturday, 9am**

## Wine Tasting Evening

*Come and sample some unusual but tasty wines!*

*Bring your own Supper*

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 7pm**

## Next Sunday Worship

*led by Revd. Martin Knight, including Holy Communion*

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023, 10:30am**

***For all future events and activities please see our website***



Croham Park Avenue, South Croydon, CR2 7HF [www.stpaulsurc.org.uk](http://www.stpaulsurc.org.uk)

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