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Order of Service

Sunday 14th May 2023



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 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

Clap your hands, all you peoples.

SHOUT TO GOD WITH SONGS OF JOY.

God has gone up with a shout.

SING PRAISES TO THE MOST HIGH.

God is ruler over all the Earth.

WE WORSHIP GOD WITH ALL OUR HEART.

WE SING: 'WHAT SHALL OUR GREETING BE?'

(Tune 38 'Moscow')

**What shall our greeting be:
sign of our unity?**

'Jesus is Lord!'

May we no more defend

barriers he died to end:

give me your hand, my friend:

one Church, One Lord!

What is our mission here?
He makes his purpose clear:
one world, one Lord!
Spirit of truth descend,
all our confusions end:
give me your hand, my friend:
'Jesus is Lord!'

He comes to save us now:
to serve him is to know
life's true reward.
May he our lives amend,
all our betrayals end:
give me your hand, my friend:
'Jesus is Lord!'

Words Fred Pratt Green © 1975 Hope Publishing Company

Prayer of Approach

God, who draws us to each other

YOU GROW US INTO COMMUNITY.

Esther and her Pigeon Peas

WE SING: 'MAYENZIWE'

Mayenziwe 'ntando yakho

Your will be done on earth, O Lord.

Mayenziwe 'ntando yakho

*Words: from the Lord's Prayer
as taught by George Mxadana*

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**

Prayer for Christian Aid Week

Responsive Reading using: **Joel 1:10-12; 2:18-29**

Left **The fields are devastated: the ground mourns.**

Right **For the grain is destroyed, the wine dries up,
the oil fails.**

Leader *Be dismayed, you farmers,
wail, you vine-dressers,
over the wheat and the barley;*

All **FOR THE CROPS OF THE FIELD ARE RUINED.**

Leader *The vine withers, the fig tree droops.
Pomegranate, palm, and apple,
all the trees of the field are dried up.*

All **SURELY, JOY WITHERS AWAY
AMONG THE PEOPLE.**

Left **Then the Lord became jealous for the land,
and had pity on the people.**

Right **In response to the people, the Lord said;
'I am sending you grain, wine, and oil,
and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make
you a mockery among the nations.'**

- Left** **Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice,
for the Lord has done great things!**
- Right** **Do not fear, you animals of the field,
for the pastures of the wilderness are green.**
- Leader** *The tree bears its fruit,
the fig tree and vine give their full yield.*
- Left** **O children of Zion,
be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God.**
- Right** **For God has given the early rain for your
vindication, abundant rain,
the early and the later rain, as before.**
- Leader** *The threshing-floors shall be full of grain,
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.*
- Left** **I will repay you for the years that the swarming
locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer,
and the cutter, my great army,
which I sent against you.**
- Right** **You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise
the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt
wondrously with you.**
- All** **AND MY PEOPLE SHALL NEVER AGAIN
BE PUT TO SHAME.**
- Leader** *Then afterwards, I will pour out my spirit on all flesh.*
- Left** **Your children shall prophesy.**
- Right** **Your elders shall dream dreams.**

Left **And your youth shall see visions.**

Right **Even on the enslaved ones.**

All **IN THOSE DAYS,
I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT ON ALL FLESH.**

Reading: **Matthew 13:1-9** *(Pg.794)*

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears, listen!'

WE SING: 620 FOR THE HEALING OF THE NATIONS
(Tune 319 'Regent Square')

Sowing Seeds

Prayers for Others

Using: 'ALLELUIA'

Chords: G⁷ C⁶ G/D D⁷ G G⁷ C⁶ G/D D⁷ G

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-

9 Am G D⁷ G Am G D⁷ G

le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Song: as taught by George Mxadana

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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

& donations for Christian Aid Week



WE SING: 'COMMUNITY OF CHRIST'

(Tune 118 '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.**

Words© Shirley Erena Murray

Sending & Blessing

*...and in all we do
let us show the love of Jesus.*

Let us treat everyone with dignity.
WE WILL SHOW THE LOVE OF JESUS.

Let us stand up for equality.
WE WILL SHOW THE LOVE OF JESUS.

Let us fight for justice.
WE WILL SHOW THE LOVE OF JESUS.

Coming up...

Prayers for Peace

Each Tuesday, 12-1pm

Garden 'Dig Day's

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

Tuesday 16th May, 10-12noon, 2-5pm

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

Garden 'Dig Day'

Saturday 20th May, 10-1pm, 2-5pm

Next Sunday Worship

led by Rev'd Martin Knight

Sunday 21st May 2023, 10:30am

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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