



**St Paul's
United
Reformed
Church**

Minister:
Revd. Martin Knight
07392 463961 minister1@stpaulsuc.org.uk
Church Secretaries:
Sue Eardley
07971 068887 eardleys@virginmedia.com
Bea Pollard
020 8657 0162 ronandbea@btinternet.com

Order of Service

Christmas Eve Candlelight 2022



Welcome to St Paul's!

The service is being led by: **Rev'd Martin Knight**
& **Members of St Paul's and South Croydon United Church**
and 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.stpaulsucr.org.uk

Please use 'T' on your hearing aid if you need to use the Hearing Loop.

Welcome

Prayer

WE SING: 'ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY'

(Solo and Singers verses 1&2)

**3. For he is our childhood's pattern;
day by day, like us He grew;
He was little, weak and helpless,
tears and smiles like us He knew;
and He feeleth for our sadness,
and He shareth in our gladness.**

**4. Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him, but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
when like stars his children crowned
all in white shall wait around.**

Cecil Frances Alexander

1st Lesson 'The First Day'

Genesis 1: 1-5 (New Revised Standard Version)

During which, the 'Peacelight' is brought forward: from Bethlehem to South Croydon

WE SING: 'O COME, O COME, IMMANUEL'
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear:

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Wisdom from above
who ord'rest all things through thy love;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in her ways to go:

2nd Lesson 'We have seen a great light'

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7 (King James Version)

**WE SING: O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide the heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery:**

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight:**

9th C. Antiphons, tr. J.M.Neale

3rd Lesson

'Mary and the Angel'

Luke 1: 26-33 (NRSV)

Gift 1

'Mary did you know' sung by The Pentatonix

4th Lesson

'The birth of Jesus'

Luke 2: 1-7 (KJV)

Gift 2

WE SING: 'O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM'

how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth.

For Christ is born of Mary
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.

**How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his Heaven:
no ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.**

**O Holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels,
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord, Immanuel.**

Phillips Brooks

'The Shepherds' by Godfrey Rust

5th Lesson '*The Shepherds*'

Luke 2: 8-16 (NRSV)

Gift 3

WE SING: ‘SEE IN YONDER MANGER LOW’

born for us on earth below,
see! the tender Lamb appears
promised from eternal years:

Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!
Hail, redemptions happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
‘Christ is born in Bethlehem!’

**Say, ye holy shepherds, say,
what your joyful news today;
wherefore have ye left your sheep
on the lonely mountain steep?**

**‘As we watched at dead of night,
lo, we saw a wonderous light:
angels, singing “Peace on earth”,
told us of the Saviour’s birth’:**

Edward Caswall

‘The Magi’ by Godfrey Rust

6th Lesson ‘The Wisemen’

Matthew 2: 1-5a, 7-11 (NRSV)

Gift 4

WE SING: 'O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL'

joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:
come and behold him
born the King of angels:

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

**God of God,
Light of light,
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God,
begotten, not created:**

**Lo! Star-led chieftains,
magi, Christ adoring,
offer him incense, gold and myrrh;
we to the Christ Child
bring our hearts' oblations:**

**Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above,
'Glory to God
in the highest':**

Latin, tr. Frederick Oakeley

Message: 'Hope Comes'

The Peacelight is shared

(A flame from Bethlehem, sparks each candle during the next carol)

WE SING: 'STAR CHILD, EARTH-CHILD'

**go-between of God,
love Child, Christ Child,
heaven's lightening rod,**

***This year, this year, let the day arrive,
when Christmas comes for everyone,
everyone alive!***

2. Street child, beat child

**no place left to go,
hurt child, used child,
no one wants to know,**

(Men)

3. Grown child, old child, mem'ry full of years, sad child, lost child, story told in tears,

(Women)

4. Spared child, spoiled child, having, wanting more, wise child, faith child knowing joy in store,

5. Hope-for-peace Child, God's stupendous sign, down-to-earth Child, star of stars that shine.

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Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

WE SING: 'ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT ALL CHRISTIANS SING'

(Singers verses 1&2)

**All out of darkness, we have light,
which made the angels sing this night;
'Glory to God, on earth be peace,
now and forever more. Amen!'**

} Twice

English trad.

7th Lesson '*The Light in the darkness*'

John 1: 1-5, 9 & 14 (*Inclusive Version*)

WE SING: 'HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING'

Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.

Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem'

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the new-born King.*

**Christ by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased as Man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!**

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings:
mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us all from earth,
born to give us second birth:**

Charles Wesley

Sending Forth & Blessing

StChristopher's

More than just a hospice



St Christopher's offers world class palliative and end of life care to everyone who needs it, whenever or wherever that may be. The hospice is a friendly, vibrant place, with excellent medical and nursing care, devoted to doing their best for patients and families, plus practical, emotional and spiritual support to over 7,500 people in the local area.

"We are a place for everyone."

St Christopher's relies on donations to care for patients and those close to them. Please help by contributing to the offering to raise funds to continue this important work. <https://www.stchristophers.org.uk>

Life at St Paul's...

United Christmas Day Family Worship

*at South Croydon United Church, Aberdeen Road
(NOT AT ST PAUL'S!)*

Sunday 25th December 2022, 9:30am

Tuesday Guild

Social time, talks, crafts, outings

Check the website for details!

Tuesday's 10:15am (restarts 3rd January 2023)

Prayers for Peace

The Sanctuary

Each Tuesday, 12-1pm

St Paul's Book Club

Coombe Wood Cafe

Thursday 12th January, 12:30-2pm

WarmSpace

Every Thursday 3:30-6:30pm

United Prayer Time - Zoom

'Zoom' Meeting ID: 845 5391 2820

Every Friday, 6pm

Sunday Worship

Sunday's, 10:30am

For all future events and activities please see our website

www.stpaulsurc.org.uk/



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

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