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Order of Service

Sunday 11th December 2022

Gift Service



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 regularly 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

Call to Worship

Lighting our Peace Candle

WE SING: 740 TELL OUT MY SOUL

Giving of Gifts for Purley Food Hub & Nightwatch

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.
And 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 3rd Advent Candle

John the Baptist

(Three candles are lit)

Leader: *We light this candle for all God's messengers,
preparing the way for change,
signs pointing to a new age to come.*

All: **GOD, AS WE WAIT FOR YOUR PROMISE,
GIVE LIGHT, GIVE HOPE**

Sing: **John the Baptist, by his preaching
and by water poured,
brought to those who heard his teaching
news of hope restored:
'Keep your vision strong and steady,
and be ready
for the Lord.'**

(Tune: 405 'Angel Voices')

Advent-ure!

WE SING: COLOURS OF DAY

**Colours of day dawn into the mind,
the sun has come up, the night is behind.
Go down in the city, into the street,
and let's give the message to the people we meet.**

*So light up the fire and let the flame burn,
open the door, let Jesus return.*

*Take seeds of his Spirit, let the fruit grow,
tell the people of Jesus, let his love show.*

**Go through the park, on into the town;
the sun still shines on; it never goes down.
The light of the world is risen again;
the people of darkness are needing a friend.
*So light up the fire...***

*Words© Sue McClelan,
John Paculabo and Keith Rycroft*

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**

Reading: Isaiah 7: 10-16 (pg. 554)

¹⁰ Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

God's Gift from the Prophets

Praying with the Prophets

WE SING: 126 O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

(omit vs's. 3,5 & 8)

Reading: Matthew 1: 18-25 (pg. 783)

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' ²²All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ *'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.'*

²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

A Magnificat

God's Gift from Mary

**WE SING: 139 THE ANGEL GABRIEL
FROM HEAVEN CAME**

Prayers for Others

Offering for the work of this church

WE SING: GOD HAS SPOKEN BY THE PROPHETS

(Tune: 'Hyfrydol')

God has spoken – by the prophets,
spoken true, unchanging words;
each from age to age proclaiming
God, the one, the righteous Lord.
'Mid the world's despair and turmoil
one firm anchor holding fast:
God eternal reigns forever,
God the first, and God the last.

God has spoken – by Christ Jesus,
Christ, the everlasting Son,
brightness of God's blazing glory,
with our God forever one;
spoken by the Word incarnate,
God from God, ere time was born;
Light from Light, to earth descending,
Christ, revealing God to all.

God is speaking – by the Spirit,
speaking to our hearts again,
in the ago-long word expounding
God's own message, now as then.
Through the rise and fall of nations
one sure faith is standing fast;
God still speaks, the Word unchanging,
God the first, and God the last.

*Words: George Wallace Briggs
add. Martin Knight*

Sending Forth & Blessing

Coming up...

Tuesday Guild

'Christmas Miscellany'

Small Hall

Tuesday 13th December, 10:15am

Prayers for Peace

The Sanctuary

Tuesday 13th December, 12-1pm

Carols with Unicorn House

Unicorn House – silly hats obligatory!

Tuesday 13th December, 1:30-2pm

WarmSpace

Open to all!

Every Thursday 3:30-6:30pm

United Prayer Time - Zoom

for St Paul's and South Croydon United Church

'Zoom' Meeting ID: 845 5391 2820

Every Friday, 6pm

Do you love to sing?

Be part of our Candlelight Service singing group.

All ages and abilities welcome!

First rehearsal

Friday 16th December 2022, 7:30-8:30pm

Christmas Party – 'bringing the Nativity to Life'

All welcome for this live tour of nativity scenes and a bouncy castle, craft, food and fun activities.

Saturday 17th December 2022, 4-6pm

Next Sunday Worship – Family Christmas Service

led by Junior Church

Sunday 18th December 2022, 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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