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Order of Service

Sunday 30th July 2022



Welcome to St Paul's!

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

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.

Church Notices

<u>Call to Worship</u> <u>Lighting our Peace Candle</u>

WE SING: 60 GOD WHO SPOKE IN THE BEGINNING

(Tune: 'Rhuddlan', no.344)

<u>Prayer of Praise</u> The Lord's Prayer



Dramatic Reading: Luke 12: 13-21 (pg. 847)

WE SING: ONE HUMAN FAMILY GOD HAS MADE

One human family god has made and all for each to care.
One world, to be the home of all, with all its wealth to share.
One Christ, to manifest on earth love's ultimate desi-i-ign.
One Church to know the mystery of broken bread and wine.

One race, one world – yet torn apart, we spurn the way of love.
But still ahead, the Christ leads on and calls his Church to move from love of power to power of love, to give the word to a-a-all – to trust the love that conquered death, outside a city wall.

And are we brave enough to join with that great company – to bear the scars that stamp us his – the hallmark of belief.
As partners of the living Christ, who risk the way he tro-o-od, with wondering love we find we share the timeless joy of God.

Words© Rosemary Wakelin Music arrangement© John Bell, The Iona Community



As our youngest folk leave, we bless them and each other with the words of 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: Ecclesiastes 1: 2, 12-14, 2: 24-26 (Pg. 536)

- ² Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.
- ¹² I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, ¹³applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to human beings to be busy with. ¹⁴I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.
- ²⁴ There is nothing better for mortals than to eat and drink, and find enjoyment in their toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God; ²⁵ for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment? ²⁶ For to the one who pleases him God gives wisdom and knowledge and joy; but to the sinner he gives the work of gathering and heaping, only to give to one who pleases God. This also is vanity and a chasing after wind.

WE SING: WE WILL TAKE WHAT YOU OFFER



Words: Iona Community

- ¹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures for ever.
- ² Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble
- ³ and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.
- ⁴ Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to an inhabited town;
- ⁵ hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.
- ⁶ Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress;
- ⁷ he led them by a straight way, until they reached an inhabited town.
- ⁸ Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.
- 9 For he satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry he fills with good things.
- ⁴³ Let those who are wise give heed to these things, and consider the steadfast love of the LORD.

Making God-like choices

WE SING: INSPIRED BY LOVE AND ANGER

(Tune: 590 'Penlan')

Inspired by love and anger, disturbed by need and pain, informed of God's own bias we ask him once again: "How long must some folk suffer? How long can few folk mind? How long dare vain self-interest turn prayer and pity blind?"

From those forever victims of heartless human greed, their cruel plight composes a litany of need: "Where are the fruits of justice? Where are the signs of peace? When is the day when prisoners and dreams find their release?"

From those forever shackled to what their wealth can buy, the fear of lost advantage provokes the bitter cry, "Don't query our position!

Don't criticise our wealth!

Don't mention those exploited by politics and stealth!"

To God, who through the prophets
proclaimed a different age,
we offer earth's indifference, its agony and rage:
"When will the wronged be righted?
When will the kingdom come?
When will the world be generous to all instead of some?"

God asks, "Who will go for me? Who will extend my reach? And who, when few will listen, will prophesy and preach? And who, when few bid welcome, will offer all they know? And who, when few dare follow, will walk the road I show?"

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Prayers for Others

Using 'Heaven shall not wait' from the Iona Community

Heaven shall not wait for the poor to lose their patience, the scorned to smile, the despised to find a friend:

Jesus is Lord:

he has championed the unwanted; in him injustice confronts its timely end.

Heaven shall not wait for the rich to share their fortunes, the proud to fall, the elite to tend the least:

Jesus is Lord; he has shown the master's privilege -

to kneel and wash servants' feet before they feast.

Heaven shall not wait for the dawn of great ideas, thoughts of compassion divorced from cries of pain:

Jesus is Lord;

he has married word and action; his cross and company make his purpose plain. Heaven shall not wait for our legalised obedience, defined by statute, to strict conventions bound:

Jesus is Lord:

he has hallmarked true allegiance - goodness appears where his grace is sought and found.

Heaven shall not wait for triumphant Hallelujahs, when earth has passed and we reach another shore:

Jesus is Lord in our present imperfection; his power and love are for now and then for evermore. AMEN

Offering for the work of this church

WE SING: 603 LORD, FOR THE YEARS

Sending out & Blessing

Coming up...

Prayers for Peace

St Paul's is open for private prayer every Tuesday and Thursday during the current situation in Ukraine.

Tuesdays 12-1pm Thursdays 5-6pm

(See website/WhatsApp for changes)

Guild Coffee Morning

at the home of Jean Gundlach

Tuesday 2nd August 2022, 10:30am-12noon

Elders' Meeting

Youth Room

Wednesday 3rd August 2022, 8pm

St Paul's Book Club

at St Paul's – discussing 'Conclave' by Robert Harris Thursday 4th August 2022, 7:30pm

United Prayer Time - Zoom

for St Paul's and South Croydon United Church 'Zoom' Meeting ID: 845 5391 2820

Friday evenings at the new time of 6pm

Next Sunday Worship, with Holy Communion

led by Rev'd Martin Knight

Sunday 7th August 2022, 10:30am

For all future events and activities please see our website



St Paul's United Reformed Church

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

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