



St Paul's
United
Reformed
Church

Minister:
Rev'd. Martin Knight
07392 463961 minister1@stpaulsurc.org.uk
Church Secretaries:
Sue Eardley
07971 068887 eardeys@virginmedia.com
Bea Pollard
020 8657 0162 ronandbea@btinternet.com

Order of Service

Sunday 21st April 2024

Memberships and Uniformed Parade

Leaving Service for Rev'd Martin Knight

**“May the GRACE
of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the LOVE of God,
and the FELLOWSHIP
of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.”**

Welcome to St Paul's!

This morning's service is being led by: **Rev'd Martin Knight**
The Organ is played by: **Mr Jonathan Heaton**

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 during worship 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.

Call to Worship

Lighting of Peace Candle

...as we walk together, we bless each other using the words of The Grace, that have inspired this service:

**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**

WE SING: 'LET US BUILD A HOUSE'

(During which the colours are received)

**Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.**

**Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:**

***All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.***

**Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.**

**Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:**

***All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.***

**Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.**

**Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;**

let us bring an end to fear and danger:

***All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.***

**Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.**

**Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,**

let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

***All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.***

Words: Marty Haugen

Prayer of Thanksgiving, Confession and Assurance

We praise you, God, the Creator:

**THROUGH YOUR LOVE AND HOPE
YOU HAVE CREATED AND CONTINUE TO CREATE.**

We praise you, Jesus Christ, the word made flesh:

**THROUGH YOUR LIFE AND RESURRECTION
WE HAVE A WAY TO FOLLOW
AND A NEW AND LIVING HOPE.**

We praise you, Holy Spirit, the Giver of life:

**THROUGH INSPIRATION AND CREATIVITY
THE CHURCH WAS BORN,
AND BY YOUR GIFTS THE BODY OF CHRIST IS BUILT UP.**

*With the whole Church on earth and in heaven
we praise you:*

ONE GOD FOR EVER. AMEN

Gracious God,

*you call us to be the body of Christ on earth,
yet we often struggle and fail.*

While Christ proclaimed truth and hope, we obscure it.

Though Christ prayed for the unity of all, we remain divided.

*While Christ touched the sick and blessed the poor,
we shrink from the demands of justice.*

LOVING GOD, FORGIVE US.

HELP US TO FOLLOW CHRIST.

**AND MAY THE HOLY SPIRIT RENEW US,
SO THAT THE WORLD MIGHT COME TO BELIEVE.**

*In repentance and in faith hear the promise of grace
and the assurance of pardon:*

Jesus says: Your sins are forgiven.

He also says:

Feed my lambs. Tend my sheep. Follow me.

THANKS BE TO GOD. AMEN.

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

Reading: 2 Corinthians 13: 5-13

(Pg.944)

⁵ Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless, indeed, you fail to pass the test! ⁶ I hope you will find out that we have not failed. ⁷ But we pray to God that you may not do anything wrong—not that we may appear to have passed the test, but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed. ⁸ For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. ⁹ For we rejoice when we are weak and you are strong. This is what we pray for, that you may become perfect. ¹⁰ So I write these things while I am away from you, so that when I come, I may not have to be severe in using the authority that the Lord has given me for building up and not for tearing down.

Final Greetings and Benediction

11 Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. **12** Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

13 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

Grace

Reaffirming the Scout Law and Promises

WE SING: 'NOW AS I START UPON MY CHOSEN WAY'

(Tune: 740 'Woodlands')

**Now as I start upon my chosen way
In all I do, my thoughts, my work, my play
Grant as I promise, courage now for me
To be the best the best that I can be**

**Open mine eyes to see things as I should
That I may do my daily turn of good
Let me be ready waiting for each need
To keep me clean in thought and word and deed**

Words by Ralph Reader CBE

¹How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
²It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.
³It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the LORD ordained his blessing,
life for evermore.

Fellowship

Admission to Church Membership

The Proclamation of Faith in the Apostles' Creed

***I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of God,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.***

***I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.***

The Affirmations & Promises

(by the congregation)

*In welcoming Eric, Martha and Janine,
as fellow-members in the life of this church,
do you promise your friendship in the Lord,
and will you give them your support in prayer and service,
so that they, and we,
may continue to grow in the knowledge and love of God
and witness to Jesus Christ our risen Lord?*

WE DO, AND WITH GOD'S HELP, WE WILL.

Laying on of Hands, prayer and welcome

In the name of Christ we welcome you.

**MAY WE GROW TOGETHER IN UNITY,
AND BE BUILT UP INTO THE BODY OF CHRIST IN LOVE,
TO THE GLORY OF GOD,
CREATOR, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN**

**WE SING: 117 O LORD MY GOD,
WHEN I IN AWESOME WONDER**

Love

Prayers for Others

Offering for the work of this church

WE SING: 195 LORD OF THE DANCE

Litany of Farewell

Statements by Sue, Chris Dean and Martin

Congregation:

WE RECEIVE WITH THANKFULNESS THE MINISTRY THAT YOU HAVE OFFERED TO US IN THE TIME THAT WE HAVE SHARED.

WE ACCEPT THAT YOU NOW LEAVE US TO SERVE AS CHAPLAIN TO THE BRIGHTELM CENTRE AND AS PIONEER MINISTER WITH THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY IN BRIGHTON & HOVE, TRUSTING THAT GOD WILL GO WITH YOU ON THAT JOURNEY.

YOUR WORK AND PRESENCE HERE WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN AND WE ASK FOR YOUR FORGIVENESS FOR OUR OWN SHORTCOMINGS AND ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR US.

Martin responds

Sue: *Do you, the people of St Paul's and those representing the community of South Croydon, now release Martin from his duties as minister to you?*

WE DO, WITH THE HELP OF GOD.

Bea: *Martin, do you release the people of St Paul's from seeking your leadership, relying on you and needing you?*

Junior Church:

Martin, do you offer your prayers and encouragement to the continued life and witness of St Paul's?

Steve: *Let us pray together:*

**GOD OF ALL CREATION,
YOUR LOVE FOR ALL IS TRUSTWORTHY AND TRUE,
HELP EACH OF US TO TRUST THE FUTURE
WHICH RESTS IN YOUR CARE.
TOGETHER WE HAVE EXPERIENCED
LAUGHTER AND TEARS,
HOPES AND DISAPPOINTMENTS.
GUIDE US AS WE CARRY THESE CHERISHED
MEMORIES WITH US IN NEW DIRECTIONS,
UNTIL THAT TIME WHEN WE ARE ONE WITH YOU
AND WITH ONE ANOTHER.
IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD WE PRAY.
AMEN**

Sue: *Go now Martin, with our blessing,
surrounded by our love and led by the promises of God,
the presence of Jesus Christ
and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. AMEN.*

WE SING: LIFT HIGH THE CROSS

(During which the colours are returned)

***Lift high the Cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name!***

**To many ears the gospel sounds insane,
so, we lift our voices: wisdom to proclaim.**

(1 Cor. 1:18)

Lift high the Cross...

**Born on the run and living with the lost,
he calls us to follow and to face the cost.**

(Luke. 14:28)

Lift high the Cross...

**In halls of power and where injustice reigns,
Christ shouts out in anger. Let us do the same!**

(Matthew. 21: 12)

Lift high the Cross...

**Led to the cross, he shared our human strife;
then risen in glory, calls us back to life.**

(1 Peter. 2:24)

Lift high the Cross...

**Light of the world: Christ blazes in the dark.
As Church we arise, to be his holy spark.**

(John. 8: 12)

Lift high the Cross...

Words: Martin Knight (2016), refrain: George Kitchin

Sending Forth

*'The LORD himself goes before you
and will be with you;
he will never leave you nor forsake you.
Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.'*

(Deuteronomy 31: 8-9)

Aaronic Blessing

We bless each other in the words of the Aaronic blessing:

**THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU;
THE LORD MAKE HIS FACE TO SHINE UPON YOU
AND BE GRACIOUS TO YOU;
THE LORD LIFT UP HIS COUNTENANCE UPON YOU
AND GIVE YOU PEACE.**

*We go in peace, to love and serve the Lord. **AMEN***

Coming up...

Tuesday Guild

Craft and Natter

Tuesday 23rd April, 10:15am

United Prayer Time - Zoom

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

Every Saturday, 8am

Next Sunday Worship

led by Jenny Sheehan

Sunday 28th April 2024, 10:30am

For all future events and activities please see our website
www.stpaulsurc.org.uk / www.facebook.com/stpaulsurc



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

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