

Order of Service

Sunday 1st December 2024



The King is coming

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

Today's service is being led by: **Albert & Elizabeth Wood**
The organ is played by: **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 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 all 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.**

We pray that you will know God's presence as we worship – in church, at home, online, outdoors, at work, school; in all places.

What are the white cloths?

We traditionally put these on the pews when we share Holy Communion together. You are invited to sit 'behind' them so you can be served at 'God's table' (it also makes it easier for the servers to reach you).

Entry with Bible

Introduction & Welcome

Advent candle / Peace candle

All: Yearning God, You draw close, aching to hold us in Your love; teach us to follow Your paths of justice and faithfulness. Show us Your ways that we may be strengthened in holiness as we await our redemption which draws ever nearer. Amen

Hymn 656 (R&S): Lo! He comes in clouds

Prayer

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,
for ever and ever. Amen

Talk Washing whiter

Reading: Malachi 3: 2

² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap;

Hymn 141 (R&S): Make way

The Grace

Junior Church leaves for their own activities

Reading: Malachi 3: 1-4

3 See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Reading: Mark 13: 24-27; 32-37

²⁴ 'But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶ Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. ²⁷ Then he will send out

the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ³² 'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Beware, keep alert;^[a] for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵ Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

Sermon

Offertory for the work of this church (loose in the bag) and for our communion charity (in Envelopes)



Christians Against Poverty (CAP) is a UK Christian charity founded in Bradford in 1996. It specialises in debt counselling for people in financial difficulty, including those in need of bankruptcy or insolvency. It also provides Job Clubs for those seeking employment, Life Skills groups to help people surviving on a low income, and Fresh Start Courses for those looking to overcome addictions and dependencies.

Hymn (tune: Aurelia 566, new words)

Facing a task unfinished, that drives us to our knees.
A need that, undiminished, rebukes our slothful ease.
We, who rejoice to know Thee, renew before Thy throne

the solemn pledge we owe Thee to go and make Thee known.

Where other lords beside Thee hold their unhindered sway;
where forces that defied Thee defy Thee still today.
With none to heed their crying for life, and love, and light,
un-numbered souls are dying and pass into the night.

We bear the torch that, flaming, fell from the hands of those
who gave their lives proclaiming that Jesus died and rose.
Ours is the same commission, the same glad message ours;
fired by the same ambition, to Thee we yield our powers.

O Father who sustained them, O Spirit Who inspired,
Saviour, whose love constrained them to toil with zeal un-
tired.

From cowardice defend us, from lethargy awake!
forth on Thine errands send us to labour for Thy sake.

Offertory & Prayer of Dedication (alternate)

Hymn 314 (R&S): Break thou the bread of life (tune:
Lathbury which has been on WhatsApp)

Communion

Prayers of intercession

Hymn 127 (R&S): Hail to the Lord's anointed

Blessing and Dismissal

Coming up...

Next Sunday's service will be led by the Junior Church

- **If you can deliver leaflets** locally this week about our Christmas services please collect a pack from the kitchen
- **Please pray for Fran Boto** who will be leading the service today at Sevenoaks URC
- **Guild meeting:** Tuesday 3rd December 10.15am, Stained Glass by Duncan Cameron (a change to the published programme as Elizabeth Lanyon is unwell). All welcome.
- **Next House group:** Thursday 5th December 10.30am, 372 Selsdon Road CR2 7AB. All welcome even if you haven't been before
- **Advance notice - Christmas Lunch:** Sunday 15th December 12noon – please sign-up in the corridor. Cost for the 3-courses is £6 for adults/£3 for those under 12, bring your own wine. Please indicate any dietary requirements. All proceeds to Tuesday Guild charities
- **Warm Space Christmas celebration:** Thursday December 19th 3.30-6.15pm. People not usually involved with Warm Space are invited to join for a short *Christmas themed worship* and *Christmas Dinner*. **Please let Fran know** for numbers/catering.
- Would you like to join carol singing on Christmas Eve from the front of the church sanctuary? Do you know anyone who might sing Alto, Tenor, Bass in particular? **Please speak to Fran** about the short practices involved.

United Prayer Time - Zoom - Every Saturday, 9am

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

If joining for the first time, please note that participation varies. If you find yourself on your own, please do not be put off! Others will be praying at this time but not able to join the Zoom. Please try another week. Thank you for joining St Paul's prayer life.



For all future events and activities please see our website



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www.stpaulsurc.org.uk

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