



**St Paul's
United
Reformed
Church**

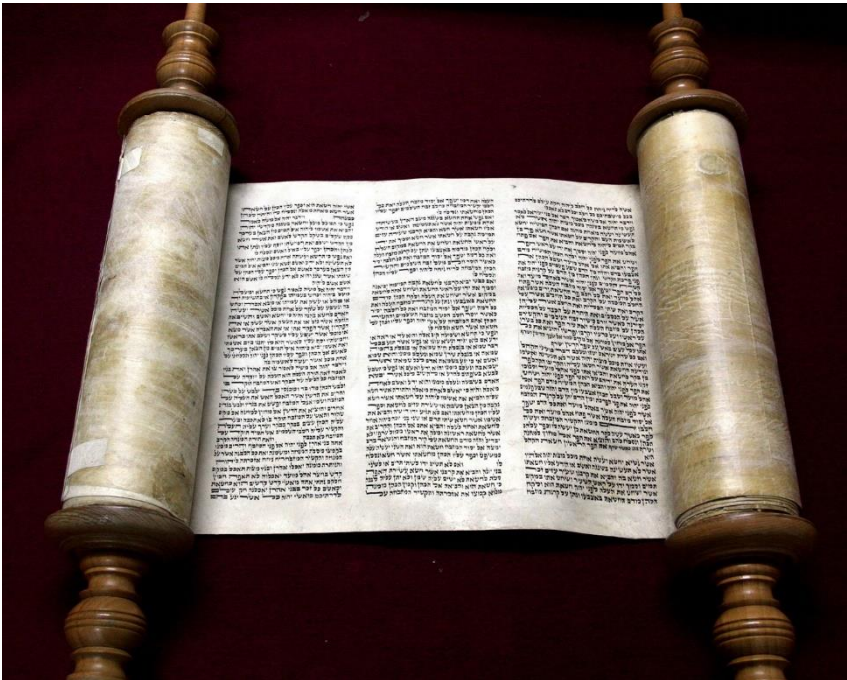
Church Secretary:

Sue Eardley

07971 068887 Secretary@StpaulsURC.org.uk

Order of Service

Sunday 26th January 2025



Today's the day

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

Today's service is being led by: **John Ponsford**

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.

Welcome & Notices

Call to Worship

Lighting of the peace candle

Hymn 141 (R&S): Make way, make way

Prayers of approach and confession

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

Reading: Luke 4:14-21

¹⁴Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. ¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was

given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ¹⁸'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.' ²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

Talk

Hymn 576 (R&S): God's spirit is deep in my heart

The Grace

All: 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

Junior Church leaves for their own activities

Reading: Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 7b-10

8 all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. ²Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh

month. ³He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law... ⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen', lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. ⁷...Levites helped the people to understand the law, while the people remained in their places. ⁸So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. ⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.'

Hymn 319 (R&S): Thanks to God whose Word was spoken

Sermon

Hymn 268 (R&S): Jesus is Lord!

Offering – with prayer & dedication

Prayers of Intercession

Hymn 740 (R&S): Tell out, my soul

The Blessing

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

All: **In the name of Christ, Amen.**

If you'd like to support the work of St Paul's but have no cash for the collection, you can donate by card via <https://bit.ly/ForStPauls> or our card reader on request. We're registered for gift aid – see leaflets at the exits. Most members have a regular standing order in place. Please talk to any of the elders for more details

Coming up...

Next Sunday's service will be led by

Rev Nicola Furley-Smith - Secretary to the URC Ministries Committee and leading communion worship with the offering in aid of Commitment for Life. It is with joy that she will be inducting our two new elders, Linda Dean and Eleanor Redshaw

As per our last Church meeting, we opted to start with the projects in Zimbabwe.

Political instability is an ongoing concern in Zimbabwe. Most Zimbabweans face socio-economic crises and every year. Millions rely on food aid. Drought, floods and erratic rainfall patterns are costly. Ruined infrastructure and a broken economy mean many cannot grow enough food. Church partners focus on food security, nutrition, HIV, health and gender equality.

Prayers:

- Please pray for **Fran** as she leads the worship at South Croydon United Church this morning

- Please also pray for the **various church members showing students from Coombe Wood School** around the church this coming week as they learn about Christianity

- Please remember in your prayers - **World Leprosy Day** (26th January) and **Holocaust Memorial Day** (27th January)
- **Tuesday Guild meeting:** 28th January 10.15am, Craft & Chat
- **Valentine's Beetle Drive: Saturday 15th February 6.30-9pm** please see posters in the corridor for more details of this popular event, or contact Helen/Cathy H (info@stpaulsurc.org.uk) for any more information

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.

Bible Study at South Croydon United Church next Sunday 9am (in time to get back to St Paul's for 10.30 worship)

For all future events and activities please see our website



Croham Park Avenue, South Croydon, CR2 7HF

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