

Order of Service

Sunday 29th December 2024



God with us

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: **Rob Baston**

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.

Front cover picture credit - Christ Discovered in the Temple, Simone Martini,
<https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/artifact/christ-discovered-temple>

Welcome & Notices

Call to Worship

Lighting the peace candle

Hymn 144: It came upon the midnight clear

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 in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Talk

Hymn 151: See him lying on a bed of straw

Junior Church blessing

**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**

The Junior Church leave for their activities

Reading: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

¹⁸Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.

²⁰Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord'; and then they would return to their home.

²⁶Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the Lord and with the people.

Reading: Luke 2:41-52

⁴¹Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it.

⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been

searching for you in great anxiety.’ ⁴⁹He said to them, ‘Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?’ ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them.

⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

Hymn 170: What child is this?

Sermon

Hymn 178: Who would think that what was needed

Offering - with prayer and dedication

Prayers of intercession

Hymn 167: Once in Royal David’s city

The blessing

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

All: In the name of Christ, amen.

Coming up...

Next Sunday's worship, January 5th is being led by the Junior Church with Communion led by Fran Boto.

Communion offering for the URC/Methodist Gaza appeal

By collaborating with our partners on the ground, we aim to provide critical aid and pursue a shared mission of relief and justice for the people of Gaza and Lebanon. Given the desperate humanitarian crisis experienced by the people of Gaza and Lebanon, it is good for the URC and its global justice programme, 'Commitment for Life', to join with our Methodist ecumenical partners and All We Can in support of this vital appeal. We believe the crucified Christ is embracing the pain of war affecting people from all parties and backgrounds and we feel compelled therefore to act together with care and compassion. We wait for sanity to prevail but in the meantime, we stand with our partners in solidarity and give what we can."

United Prayer Time - Zoom Every Saturday, 9am

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

Book Club : Thurs 9 Jan 12.30 at Croydon Bowling Club
(Book is *Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage in Antarctica* by Alfred Lansing)

Morning House Group starts again on Thursday 9 Jan 10.15
372 Selsdon Road (exceptionally on second week of month for one time only)

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

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