



St Paul's
United
Reformed
Church

Church Secretary:

Sue Eardley

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Order of Service

Sunday 15th December 2024



As the prophets foretold

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

Today's service is being led by: **Revd. Bill Bowman**

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

Lighting of the Advent Candle & Prayer

All: Loving God, teach us that Your ways of justice, Your paths of righteousness, and Your rule of love, come at a cost; a cost to You, and a need for us to change. May our lives show the fruit of repentance as we await our redemption which draws ever nearer.
Amen

Call to Worship

Hymn 170 (R&S): What Child is this (*Gifts to be received*)

Acknowledgement of Gifts

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

Family Talk

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

Hymn 150 (R&S): Child in the Manger

Reading: Isaiah 11:1-9

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Reading: Matthew 2:19-23

¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.’ ²¹ Then Joseph^[a] got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, ‘He will be called a Nazorean.’

Sermon “ All this took place to fulfil what the Lord said, through the Prophet”

Hymn 178 (R&S): Who would think that what was needed

Prayers of Intercession

Offertory & Offertory Prayer

Offertory for the work of this church (loose in the bag) and any monetary gifts which will be sent to Nightwatch (separate envelopes)

Hymn 135 (R&S): Joy to the World (Tune: Antioch)

Blessing & Dismissal

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 The Reverend Canon Professor Peter Galloway

- **Tuesday Guild meeting:** 17th December 10.15am, Christmas miscellany led by Fran Boto. Exploration of the Nativity through Art. All welcome – please come hungry!
- **Warm Space Christmas celebrations:** Thursday 19th December 3.30pm-6.15pm. People not usually involved with Warm Space are invited to join for some short *Christmas themed worship* and *Christmas Dinner*. Please let Fran know for numbers/catering.
- **Narnia Christmas Party:** Saturday 21st December and **Explore Narnia by Lamplight** - please see poster at the end of this order of service. To anyone who hasn't signed up or who would be willing to help on the day/evening, please speak to Helen



- **Carol Singing practice sessions:** Held on Sunday 22nd December 11.45am - 12.45pm & Tuesday 24th December, 5pm. Attendance at both not strictly necessary but please confirm to Fran about attendance

Fran can be contacted on 07969 173457 or
Franboto@aol.com

- **Help needed on Christmas Eve:** We need help with the preparation of sanctuary and hall, welcomers, offertory, reading volunteers, candle and battery candle distributors, singing volunteers. Please contact Fran if you can help!

- **Christmas Day - *please note*:** there is no service in St Paul's - we are all invited to join South Croydon United Church, Aberdeen Road, in their worship from 10am

- **Book Club - *advance notice*:** Thursday 9th January 2025 12noon at Croydon Bowling Club (Book is *Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage in Antarctica* by Alfred Lansing)

**** Please note that there are Pauline/December 2024 copies now available in the corridor – please help yourself to one**

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



Croham Park Avenue, South Croydon, CR2 7HF

www.stpaulsurc.org.uk

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NARNIA CHRISTMAS PARTY

**BOOKING
ESSENTIAL!**

**SATURDAY 21ST DECEMBER
12 - 2PM**

ST PAUL'S URC, CROHAM PARK AVE, CR2 7HF

**PARTY GAMES | CRAFT ACTIVITIES |
LUNCH WITH MR & MRS BEAVER |
TREASURE HUNT & FATHER CHRISTMAS!**

Free entry!

**Donations towards costs are
welcome on the day!**



To book your free tickets: Info@stpaulsurc.org.uk

Explore Narnia by Lamplight Saturday 21st December 6pm - 8pm

Step through the wardrobe into our beautiful Church
Sanctuary.

The Church will be open from 6pm - 8pm to enable people to
explore 'Narnia' whilst listening to some beautiful music played
on the Church organ.

No booking is required & free refreshments will be available
(including Turkish Delight!)

Snowflakes made by the St Paul's community will be on display