



St Paul's
United
Reformed
Church

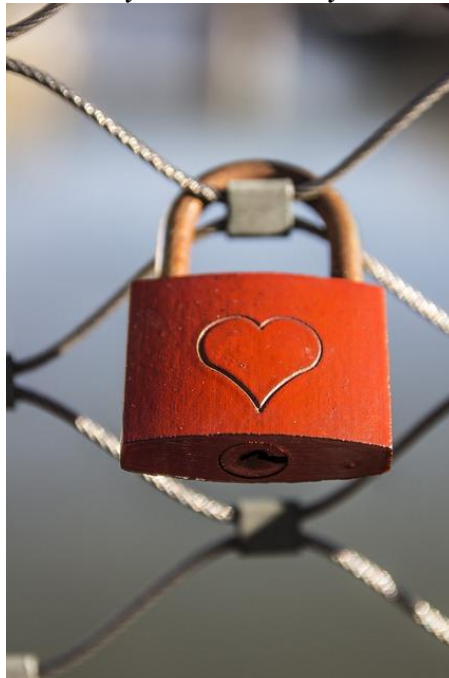
Church Secretary:

Sue Eardley

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Order of Service

Sunday 2nd February 2025



The Love Test

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

Today's service is being led by: **Rev. Nicola Furley-Smith**

The organ is played by: **Simon Gregory**

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).

Welcome & Notices

Call to Worship

Hymn 663 (R&S): Love divine, all loves excelling
(Tune: *Blaenwern at 95 R&S*)

Introduction to Worship

Prayers of Approach

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: Jeremiah 1:4-10

⁴ Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, ⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." ⁶ Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." ⁷ But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy,' for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. ⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord." ⁹ Then the

Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth. ¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

Induction of Elders: Eleanor Redshaw and Linda Dean including The Nature, Faith and Order of the United Reformed Church.

With the whole Christian Church, the United Reformed Church believes in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All: The living God, the only God, ever to be praised.

The life of faith to which we are called is the Spirit's gift continually received through the Word, the Sacraments and our Christian life together.

All: We acknowledge the gift and answer the call, giving thanks for the means of grace.

The highest authority for what we believe and do is God's Word in the Bible alive for his people today through the help of the Spirit.

All: We respond to this Word, whose servants we are with all God's people through the years.

We accept with thanksgiving to God the witness to the catholic faith in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds. We acknowledge the declarations made in our own tradition by Congregationalists, Presbyterians and Churches of Christ in which they stated the faith and sought to make its implications clear.

**All: Faith alive and active: gift of an eternal source,
renewed for every generation.**

We conduct our life together according to the Basis of Union in which we give expression to our faith in forms which we believe contain the essential elements of the Church's life, both catholic and reformed; but we affirm our right and readiness, if the need arises, to change the Basis of Union and to make new statements of faith in ever new obedience to the Living Christ.

**All: Our crucified and risen Lord, who leads us in our
faith and brings it to perfection.**

Held together in the Body of Christ through the freedom of the Spirit, we rejoice in the diversity of the Spirit's gifts and uphold the rights of personal conviction. For the sake of faith and fellowship it shall be for the church to decide where differences of conviction hurt our unity and peace.

**All: We commit ourselves to speak the truth in love and
grow together in the peace of Christ.**

We believe that Christ gives his Church a government distinct from the government of the state. In things that affect obedience to God the Church is not subordinate to the state, but must serve the Lord Jesus Christ, its only Ruler and Head. Civil authorities are called to serve God's will of justice and peace for all humankind, and to respect the rights of conscience and belief.

**All: While we ourselves are servants in the world as
citizens of God's eternal kingdom.**

We affirm our intention to go on praying and working, with all our fellow Christians, for the visible unity of the Church in the way Christ chooses so that people and nations may be led to love and serve God and praise him more and more for ever.

**All: Source, Guide, and Goal of all that is: to God be eternal glory.
Amen.**

I now call upon you, elders and members of this congregation, to dedicate yourselves anew to Christ and to the task of ministry which he lays upon us all, responding with the words: 'We do.'

Do you confess again your faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord?

All: We do

Do you seek to fulfil together your common calling to the glory of the one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

All: We do

The minister addresses all the elders who are to be inducted:

Eleanor and **Linda**, do you accept the office of elder in this congregation and promise to perform its duties faithfully, God being your helper?

Inducted Elders' response: I do

And do you, members of this congregation, promise to support and encourage those you have elected and support them in your prayers?

All: We do

Hymn 509 (R&S): O Jesus I have promised

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: Luke 4:14-30

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. ¹⁶ When 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, ¹⁷ and 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.' ²⁰ And 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. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.' ²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, 'Is not this Joseph's son?' ²³ He said to them, 'Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Doctor, cure yourself!" And you will say, "Do here also in your home town the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum."' ²⁴ And he said, 'Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's home town. ²⁵ But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up for three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; ²⁶ yet

Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷ There were also many lepers^[a] in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.' ²⁸ When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Sermon *The Love Test*

Prayers of Intercession

Offering – with Prayer & Dedication of Offering

Invitation of Communion

Hymn 447 (R&S): I come with joy to meet my Lord (*Tune: St Botolph*)

Communion: Prayer of Thanksgiving

Distribution of Bread and Wine

Post Communion Prayer

Hymn 574 (R&S): Go forth and tell! O Church of God, awake!
(*Tune: Woodlands at 740 R&S*)

The Blessing

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

This week's offertory is in aid of Commitment for Life. 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.

Coming up...

Next Sunday's service will be led by Professor the Revd. Canon Peter Galloway

Please bring any food bank donations (non-perishable food and toiletries) to this service; all donations will be going to Purley Food Hub, many thanks.

- Elders will be attending training at East Croydon URC today at 2.30pm
- **Guild meeting:** Tuesday 4th February 10.15am, Robyn Wake, Bromley and Croydon Women's Aid
- **Elders meeting:** Wednesday 5th February 8.00pm
- **Next House group:** Thursday 6th February 10.15am, 372 Selsdon Road CR2 7AB. All welcome
- **Valentine's Beetle Drive:** please see poster at the end of this order of service for more details of this popular event, or Helen/Cathy 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.

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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St Paul's Valentine's Beetle Drive

Saturday 15th February
6:30pm-9pm

Croham Park Avenue, South Croydon, CR2 7HF

Prizes for the
winners!

£3 per person

Family Fun!

Raffle!

Light
refreshments
available to buy

All proceeds will support our annual Shoebox
campaign for Link to Hope and will help bring
love and hope to so many people



To book your tickets please email:
info@stpaulsurc.org.uk or complete the
booking form via the QR code

