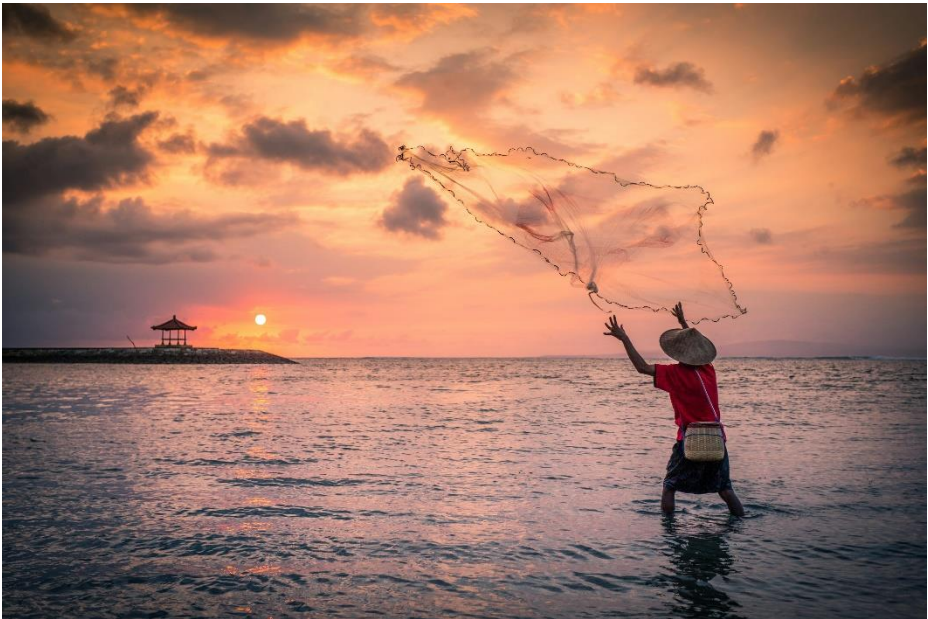


# Order of Service

*Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024*



## ***Dreams, Reflections and Hopes***

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

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Today's service is being led by:

**The Reverend Canon Professor Peter Galloway**

The organ is played by: **Lee Michael Walton**

Photo by [Bobby Mc Leod](#) on [Unsplash](#)

## 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](http://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.*

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## Welcome & Notices

### Lighting of the Advent Candle & Prayer

**All:** Table-turning God, You scatter the proud and bring down the powerful, You fill the hungry and send the rich away empty; help us to do Your will as we await our redemption which draws ever nearer. Amen

### Call to Worship

**Hymn 126 (R&S):** O come, O come, Immanuel (verses 1,2, 6, & 7)

### Prayers of Adoration, Confession and Assurance of Pardon

#### 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

**Hymn 145 (R&S):** O Little Town of Bethlehem (verses 1,2 & 4)

**Reading:** Isaiah 7:10-17

<sup>10</sup> Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup> Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. <sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah<sup>[a]</sup> said: ‘Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman<sup>[b]</sup> is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup> For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted. <sup>17</sup> The LORD will bring on you and on your people and on your ancestral house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.’

**Reading:** Matthew 2:18-25

<sup>18</sup> ‘A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.’ <sup>19</sup> When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, <sup>20</sup> ‘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.’ <sup>21</sup> Then Joseph<sup>[a]</sup> got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> 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.'

**Hymn 181 (R&S):** Of the Father's love begotten (verses 1, 3, 4 & 5)

**Sermon** *Dreams, Reflections & Hopes*

**Hymn 182 (R&S):** How brightly beams the morning star

**Prayers for others**

**Offertory & Offertory Prayer**

**Hymn 164 (R&S):** Go tell it on the mountain

**Blessing & Dismissal**

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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 John Ponsford

- **Christmas Eve service:** Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December 6.30pm, Carols by Candlelight. Anyone willing to help with preparation of the sanctuary, candle distribution or refreshments please see Fran or Sue.
- **Christmas Day service:** Joint service at 10.00am with South Croydon United Church, 7 Aberdeen Road Croydon 1EQ **NO SERVICE AT ST PAULS**
- **Epiphany Service:** Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025, led by the Junior Church
- **Carol Singing practice sessions:** Anyone interested in leading the singing on Christmas Eve, please be ready for a practice today at 11.45am in the choir pews and again on Christmas Eve at 5.00pm.  

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

**\*\* 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](http://www.stpaulsurc.org.uk)*

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***Happy Christmas!***