



Welcome

The Conversion of St. Paul

25 January



actorschurch



St. Paul's Covent Garden

Please switch off all mobile phones.

BEWARE: We do occasionally suffer from theft: take care of your belongings

Accessibility

Large Print versions of the Order of Service are available.

Gluten free wafers are available.

Hearing loop installed; collect a receiver from the back of church.

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We stand as the Altar Party enters and sing the hymn

**Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
he whose word cannot be broken
formed thee for his own abode.
On the rock of ages founded,
what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
thou mayest smile at all thy foes.**

**2 See, the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters,
and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
ever flows their thirst to assuage:
grace which, like the Lord the giver,
never fails from age to age?**

**3 Round each habitation hovering,
see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a covering,
showing that the Lord is near.
Thus they march, the pillar leading,
light by night and shade by day;
daily on the manna feeding
which he gives them when they pray.**

**4 Saviour, since of Zion's city
I through grace a member am,
let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in thy name.
Fading is the worldling's pleasure,
all his boasted pomp and show;
solid joys and lasting treasure
none but Zion's children know.**

The Priest goes to the Lectern and says:

Priest In the name of the Father, and of
the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

Priest The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

The Priest introduces the service and then leads the congregation in prayer:

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are
hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you, and
worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The Priest invites the congregation to seek God's mercy and grace. We say together:

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through
weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus
Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in
newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

*The Priest announces the **Absolution** to which all reply: **Amen**. The **Gloria** is sung from the **separate music sheet**.*

*The prayer of the day – the **Collect** – is sung.*

Almighty God, who caused the light of the gospel to shine throughout the world through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul: grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion may follow him in bearing witness to your truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

We sit for the **first** and **second readings**.

First Reading

Jeremiah 1.4-10, read by Mark

⁴Now 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.'

⁶Then I said, 'Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.' ⁷But 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.

⁸Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.'

⁹Then 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.

¹⁰See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms.'

At the end:

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Acts 9.1-22, read by Tom

¹Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.

⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' ⁵He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But get up and enter

the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' ⁷The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' ¹¹The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹²and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.' ¹³But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; ¹⁴and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.'

¹⁵But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.' ¹⁷So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.' ²¹All who heard him were amazed and said, 'Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come

here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?' ²²Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

At the end:

Reader This is the word of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God

*We stand to sing the **hymn** and turn towards the Gospel book*

**Thou didst leave thy throne and thy
kingly crown,
when thou camest to earth for me;
but in Bethlehem's home was there
found no room
for thy holy nativity:
O come to my heart, Lord Jesus;
there is room in my heart for thee.**

**2 Heaven's arches rang when the
angels sang,
proclaiming thy royal degree;
but in lowly birth didst thou come to
earth,
and in great humility:
O come to my heart...**

**3 Thou camest, O Lord, with the
living word
that should set thy people free;
but with mocking scorn and with
crown of thorn
they bore thee to Calvary:
O come to my heart...**

**4 When the heavens shall ring, and
the angels sing,
at thy coming to victory,
let thy voice call me home, saying,
"Yet there is room,
there is room at my side for thee:"
O come to my heart...**

All remain standing (if able) as the Gospel is read

Priest The Lord be with you
All And also with you

Priest Hear the Gospel of our Lord
Jesus Christ according to
Matthew (19, 27-30)

All Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁷Peter said to Jesus: 'Look, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?' ²⁸Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man is seated on the throne of his glory, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. ³⁰But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.'

At the end:

Priest This is the Gospel of the
Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

*We sit for the **Sermon***

*We stand to say the **Creed***

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen
We believe in One Lord Jesus Christ
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven,
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit
 and the Virgin Mary
 and was made man.
 For our sake he was crucified
 under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
 On the third day he rose again
 in accordance with the Scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the
 Father.
 He will come again in glory to judge
 the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.
 We believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and
 the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son
 is worshipped and glorified,
 who has spoken through the
 prophets.
 We believe in one holy catholic
 and apostolic Church.
 We acknowledge one baptism
 for the forgiveness of sins.
 We look for the resurrection of the
 dead, and the life of the world to
 come. **Amen.**

*The **Prayers of Intercession** follow
 At the end:*

Priest Merciful Father,
All accept these prayers for
 the sake of your Son, our
 Saviour, Jesus Christ,
 Amen.

*The Priest introduces the **Peace**:*

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with
 you always
All **And also with you**
 Priest Let us offer one another a
 sign of peace.

*We sing a **hymn** as the Altar is prepared for
 the **Eucharistic Prayer**. A **collection** is taken
 during the **hymn***

**Your hand, O God, has guided
 your flock from age to age;
 your faithfulness is written
 on history's open page.
 Our fathers owned your goodness,
 and we their deeds record;
 and both to this bear witness:
 one church, one faith, one Lord!**

**2 Your heralds brought the gospel
 to greatest and the least;
 they summoned men and women
 to share the great King's feast.
 And this was all their teaching
 in ev'ry deed and word,
 to all alike proclaiming:
 one church, one faith, one Lord!**

**3 Your mercy will not fail us
 nor leave your work undone;
 with your right hand to help us
 the vict'ry shall be won.
 And then by earth and heaven
 your name shall be adored;
 and this shall be our anthem:
 one church, one faith, one Lord!**

Priest Blessed are you Lord God of
 all creation. Through your
 goodness we have this bread
 to offer, which earth has
 given and human hands have
 made. It will become for us
 the bread of life.

All **Blessed be God for ever**
 Priest Blessed are you Lord God of
 all creation. Through your
 goodness we have this wine
 to offer. Fruit of the vine and
 work of human hands, it will
 become our spiritual drink
All **Blessed be God for ever**

Priest Pray my friends that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God the Almighty Father
All May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hand, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his Church.

The Priest adds the prayer over the gifts to which we reply **Amen**

Priest The Lord be with you
All And also with you.
Priest Lift up your hearts.
All We lift them to the Lord.
Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All It is right to give thanks and praise...

The Eucharistic Prayer continues until we sing
Sanctus and Benedictus from the music sheet
The Eucharistic Prayer continues until...

Priest: Great is the mystery of faith
**All: Christ has died
Christ is risen
Christ will come again**

The Eucharistic Prayer continues until
Priest ...for ever and ever
All: Amen
**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**

Priest We break this bread to share in the body of Christ
All Though we are many we are one body, because we all share in one bread

The Agnus Dei is sung from the music sheet

Priest Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, blessed are those who are called to his supper.
**All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word,
and I shall be healed.**

The congregation approaches the altar to receive
Communion.

All those who are in good standing with their own Church are invited to receive Communion.

Those who prefer to ask for a Blessing are invited to bow their heads at the Altar rail or bring this booklet as a sign to the Priest.

Post Communion Prayers:

Almighty God, who on the day of Pentecost sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame, filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel: by the power of the same Spirit strengthen us to witness to your truth and to draw everyone to the fire of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

We say together:

Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son
Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls
and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your
Spirit to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.

*Any Banns of marriage and notices are given.
and then the Priest says:*

Priest The Lord be with you
All And also with you

*The **Blessing** is given to which all reply: **Amen***

*We sing the **hymn** and turn to face the West
End for the **dismissal***

The Church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the word:
from heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

2 Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses
with every grace endued.

3 Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace for evermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great Church victorious
shall be the Church at rest.

4 Yet she on earth hath union
with God the three in one,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won;
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
like them the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.

Priest. Go in peace to love and serve
the Lord

All Thanks be to God

‘What’s On’ this week

Monday 26 January

10.00 Art Club – *all welcome*

Tuesday 27 January

5.30pm Tuesday@St. Paul’s

Wednesday 28 January

1.10pm Holy Eucharist

1.45pm Tea and Cake – *all welcome*

Thursday 29 January

I I am Renewal of marriage vows

Sunday 25 January

Candlemass

11.00 Sung Eucharist

4.30pm & 7.30pm ‘Was Jane Austen gay?’ **

***Tickets for all paid events at St. Paul’s can be obtained via our website
www.actorschurch.org*