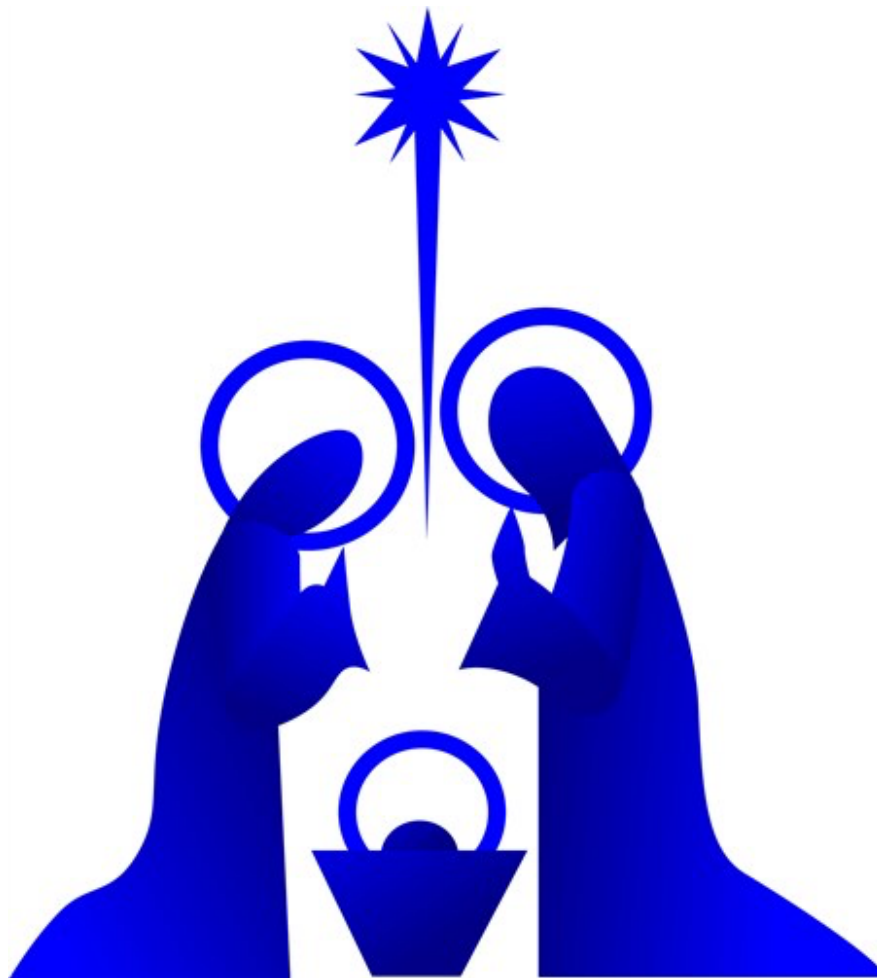




St Matthew's Church
Chichester Road, Croydon



Christmas Morning

Welcome to St Matthew's on this Christmas morning. We wish you God's richest blessings as we worship the new-born King together. Please join in the words in **bold**.

Don't forget to silence your mobile!

♪ Carol 72 ♪

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare Him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness,
and wonders of His love,
and wonders of His love,
and wonders, wonders of His love.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748) based on Psalm 97

The Greeting

The president greets the people

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you

and also with you

Prayers of Penitence

Christ the light of the world has come
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
In his light let us examine ourselves and
confess our sins.

Silence is kept.

God our Father,
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Jesus our Saviour,
you were born in poverty and laid in a
manger:
forgive our greed and rejection of your
ways.
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Spirit of love,
your servant Mary responded joyfully to
your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw you to himself,
that you may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
and be cleansed from all your sins,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

Glory to God in the highest!
And peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the
Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

The Collect

The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words

Let us pray in the peace of this Christmas celebration
that our joy in the birth of Christ will last
for ever.

Silence is kept.

Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven
touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise
as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God.

Amen.

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Isaiah 9.2, 6, 7

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light; those who lived in
a land of deep darkness –
on them light has shined.

⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us; authority rests upon his
shoulders; and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it with
justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do
this.

At the end the reader may say
This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

♪ Carol 68 ♪

In the bleak mid-winter
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak mid-winter
long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him
nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away
when He comes to reign:
in the bleak mid-winter
a stable-place sufficed
the Lord God almighty,
Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels
may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim
thronged the air;
but only His mother
in her maiden bliss
worshipped the Belovèd
with a kiss.

What can I give Him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man
I would do my part;
yet what I can I give Him,
give my heart.

Christina Georgina Rossetti (1830-1894)

The Gospel

Gospel Acclamation:

Today Christ is born:

alleluia.

Today the Saviour has come:

alleluia.

Today the angels sing on earth:

alleluia. Glory to God in the highest.

The Lord be with you

and also with you.

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 2.1-14

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to

them, 'Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴'Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Address

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 from 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.

Prayers of Intercession

In peace let us pray to the Lord.
Father, On this holy day your Son our
Saviour
was born in human flesh.

Renew your Church as the Body of
Christ.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

On this holy day there was no room for
your Son in the inn.

Protect with your love those who have
no home
and all who live in poverty.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

On this holy day Mary, in the pain of
labour,

brought your Son to birth.

Hold in your hand all who are in pain or
distress.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

On this holy day your Christ came as a
light shining in the darkness.

Bring comfort to all who suffer in the
sadness of our world.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

On this holy day the angels sang, 'Peace to
God's people on earth.'

Strengthen those who work for peace
and justice

in all the world.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

On this holy day shepherds in the field
heard good tidings of joy.

Give us grace to preach the gospel of
Christ's redemption.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

On this holy day strangers found the Holy
Family,

and saw the baby lying in the manger.

Bless our homes and all whom we love.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

On this holy day heaven is come down to
earth,

and earth is raised to heaven.

Hold in your hand [...and] all those who have passed through death in the hope of your coming kingdom.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

On this holy day Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth.

Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

Father,

On this holy day angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne.

Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary,

Joseph and the saints

through him who is your Word made flesh,

our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

¶ **The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

The Peace

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9.6

The peace of the Lord be always with you **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of God's peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

♪ **Carol 66** ♪

Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,

God and sinners reconciled.

Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'

*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,

Christ, the everlasting Lord,

late in time behold Him come,

offspring of a Virgin's womb!

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see:

Hail, the incarnate Deity!

Pleased as Man with man to dwell,

Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!

Light and life to all He brings,

risen with healing in His wings.

Mild He lays His glory by,

born that man no more may die,

born to raise the sons of earth,

born to give them second birth.

Charles Wesley, (1707-1788) and others

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine

A hymn may be sung.

The gifts of the people may be gathered and presented.

The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

This prayer may be said

Word made flesh, life of the world,

in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:

by your Spirit may we share in your riches.

Amen.

The president takes the bread and wine.
The Eucharistic Prayer
The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

And now we give you thanks
because for love of our fallen race
he most wonderfully and humbly chose to
be made man,
and to take our nature as nevermore to
lay it by,
so that we might be born again by your
Spirit
and restored in your image.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious
name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your
glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

**[Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord.**

Hosanna in the highest.]

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of
all holiness;

grant that by the power of your Holy
Spirit,

and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine

may be to us the body and blood of our
Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was
betrayed,

took bread and gave you thanks;

he broke it and gave it to his disciples,
saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given
for you;

do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for
the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

[Christ is the bread of life:]

**When we eat this bread and
drink this cup,
we proclaim your death, Lord
Jesus,
until you come in glory.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death
on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the
sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and
glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our
redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of
praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this
cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of [N and] all
the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty
Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer is said

Rejoicing in the presence of God here
among us,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who
sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

**God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

*The Agnus Dei may be used as the bread is
broken.*

Giving of Communion

Christ is the true bread which has come
down from heaven.

Lord, give us this bread always.

*The president and people receive
communion.*

*Authorized words of distribution are used
and the communicant replies*

Amen

♪ **Carol 74** ♪

Like a candle flame,
flickering small in our darkness,
uncreated light
shines through infant eyes.

*God is with us, alleluia (Men)
God is with us, alleluia (Women)
Come to save us, alleluia (Men)
Come to save us (Women)
Alleluia! (All)*

Stars and angels sing,
yet the earth sleeps in shadows;
can this tiny spark
set a world on fire?

Yet his light shall shine
from our lives, Spirit blazing,
as we touch the flame
of his holy fire.

Graham Kendrick (b. 1950) © 1988 Make Way Music

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

God our Father, whose Word has come
among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our hearts
and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord.

Amen.

**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.

¶ **The Dismissal**

♪ **Carol 78** ♪

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold Him,
born the King of angels:

*O come, let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.*

God of God,
Light of Light,
lo! He abhors not the
Virgin's womb;
very God,
begotten, not created:

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God in the highest.

Yea, Lord we greet Thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesu, to Thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh
appearing:

*Attributed to John Francis Wade (1711-1786)
trans. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others*

The Dismissal Gospel

A minister may proclaim the prologue to the Gospel according to John (John 1.1-14). This may be done either before or after the Blessing.

Hear the good news of the Word made flesh according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Blessing

May the Father,
who has loved the eternal Son
from before the foundation of the world,
shed that love upon you his children.

Amen.

May Christ,
who by his incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with joy and peace.

Amen.

May the Holy Spirit,
by whose overshadowing Mary became
the God-bearer,
give you grace to carry the good news of
Christ.

Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you
always.

Amen.

**Wishing you a truly Blessed Christmas
and a Peaceful New Year**

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