



St Matthew Croydon

VE Day Service

Welcome to St Matthew Croydon

If you are new to our church, please make yourself known at the end of the service to one of the wardens or a member of the clergy.

We do have a hearing loop – please switch your hearing aids to the ‘T’ position if you need this help.

Toilets are available, and the warden will happily direct you should you need it.

Fire exits are clearly marked and, in the event of any incident, you will be calmly directed to the correct exit.

Please turn your mobile phone off – and if you can’t do that, please ensure that the sound is off.

¶ ***The Greeting and Introduction***

Heaviness may endure for a night:

But joy comes in the morning.

God has been our refuge and our strength:

A present help in time of trouble.

Dear friends, we have come together on this day to commemorate the anniversary of Victory in Europe.

We come together conscious of our need for God's forgiveness for the sin and the desire to dominate others that leads to conflict between people, and war between nations.

And as we remember the many soldiers, sailors, and airmen who gave their lives restraining evil and opposing tyranny, so we also come in thanksgiving for those who continue to strive for peace on this continent. We gather joyfully today, as those who gathered on that first Victory day, glad of each other's company, and grateful for the laughter and love that follows times of sadness and loss.

But above all things, let us pray that God's will may be done on earth as it is in heaven, as we join our voices together and say:

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Hymn (766)

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,
to His feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me His praise should sing?
Praise Him praise Him,
praise Him praise Him,
praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise Him still the same for ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless:
Praise Him praise Him,

praise Him praise Him,
glorious in His faithfulness.

Father-like, He tends and spares us,
well our feeble frame He knows;
in His hands He gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes:

Praise Him praise Him,
praise Him praise Him,
widely as His mercy flows.

Frail as summer's flower we flourish;
blows the wind and it is gone;
but, while mortals rise and perish,
God endures unchanging on:

Praise Him praise Him,
praise Him praise Him,
praise the high eternal One.

Angels, help us to adore Him;
ye behold Him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before Him,
dwellers all in time and space:

Praise Him praise Him,
praise Him praise Him,
praise with us the God of grace.

Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847), based on Psalm 103

¶ *The Liturgy of the Word*

Readings

Let us prepare ourselves for the Word of God as it comes to us in the reading of Holy Scripture.

Our hearts and minds are open.

First Reading

Micah 4.1–4

In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised up above the hills.

Peoples shall stream to it,

²and many nations shall come and say:

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;

that he may teach us his ways

and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

³He shall judge between many peoples,

and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away;

they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,

and their spears into pruning-hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation,

neither shall they learn war any more;

⁴but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees,
and no one shall make them afraid;
for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.

At the end of which, the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn (715)

Lord, for the years
Your love has kept and guided,
urged and inspired us,
cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us,
pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years,
we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that Word,
the Word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts
and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains,
rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the Word,
receive your people's praise.

Lord, for our land,
in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure,
wealth and care:
for young and old,
for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land,
be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for our world;
when we disown and doubt you,
loveless in strength,
and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless,
lost indeed without you:
Lord of the world,
we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord for ourselves;
in living power remake us,
self on the cross,
and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us,
for the future take us:
Lord of our lives,
to live for Christ alone.

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926) © Timothy Dudley-Smith

Second Reading

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

At the end of which, the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsory

Your salvation is near to those who fear you,

that glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth have met together;

righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

that glory may dwell in our land.

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;
steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.

**Your salvation is near to those who fear you, that
glory may dwell in our land.**

Cf Psalms 84, 89

Hymn (739)

Now thank we all our God,
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven,
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore,
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

M. Rinkart (1586 – 1649)

Tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827 – 78)

¶ **Prayers of Intercession**

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

For those who served and died in World War II

O God of truth and justice,
we hold before you those men and women
who have died in active service,
particularly in the Second World War,
whose sacrifice brought Victory in Europe.
As we honour their courage and cherish their memory, may
we put our faith in your future;
for you are the source of life and hope,
now and for ever.

Amen.

For those who serve today

O Lord God of Hosts,
stretch forth, we pray, your almighty arm
to strengthen and protect our service men and women.
Support them in times of conflict,
and in their rest and training keep them safe from all evil;
endue them with courage and loyalty;
and grant that in all things they may serve without reproach;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

For the peace of the world

O God, who would fold both heaven and earth
in a single peace;
that the design of your great love lighten
upon the waste of our wraths and sorrows
and give peace to your church, peace among nations, peace in
our dwellings and peace in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our
Lord.

Amen.

And at the end

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

An Act of Commitment

Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God and our fellow men and women: that we may help, encourage and comfort others, and support those working for the relief of the needy and for the peace and welfare of the nations.

**Lord God our Father,
we pledge ourselves to serve you and all
humankind, in the cause of peace,
for the relief of want and suffering,
and for the praise of your name.**

**Guide us by your Spirit;
give us wisdom;
give us courage;
give us hope;
and keep us faithful now and always.**

Amen.

O Lord our God,
as we remember, teach us the ways of peace. As we treasure
memories, teach us to hope. As we give thanks for the
sacrifices of the past, help us to make your future in this world,
until your kingdom come.

Amen.

Collect for Peace

Almighty God,
from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed: kindle in
the hearts of all people the true love of peace; and guide with
your pure and peaceable wisdom those who take counsel for
the nations of the earth; that in tranquillity your kingdom may
go forward,
till the earth is filled with the knowledge of thy love; through
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

A prayer for the Sovereign

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, bless our Sovereign
Lord, King Charles and all who are in authority under him;
that they may order all things

in wisdom and equity, righteousness and peace, to the honour
of your name,
and the good of your Church and people; through Jesus Christ
our Lord.

Amen.

The National Anthem

God save our gracious King!

Long live our noble King!

God save the King!

Send him victorious,

Happy and glorious,

Long to reign over us,

God save the King.

Thy choicest gifts in store

On him be pleased to pour,

Long may he reign.

May he defend our laws,

And ever give us cause,

To sing with heart and voice,

God save the King.

The Blessing

God grant to the living, grace; to the departed, rest; to the

Church, the King, the Commonwealth,

and all people, peace and concord;

and to us and all his servants, life everlasting;

and the blessing of God almighty,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

come down upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Hymn (652)

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
hold me with Thy powerful hand:
Bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong Deliverer,
be Thou still my Strength and Shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side;
songs and praises,
I will ever give to Thee.

William Williams (1717-1791)

trans. Peter Williams (1727-1796)

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