



St Matthew Croydon
Bag Blessing 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 meet after church to share tea and coffee and enjoy learning more about each other.

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.

Our services are often livestreamed – if you have any queries about this, please speak to the warden at the back of the church. If you don’t want to appear on video please look for the labelled seats.

No filming of any of our services is permitted.

Our children usually go to Young Church in the middle of our service, and any children visiting are welcome to join them.

¶ **The Gathering**

Hymn

The president may say
In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
All Amen.

The Greeting

The president greets the people
The Lord be with you **and also with you.**

Words of welcome or introduction may be said.

Prayer of Preparation

This prayer may be said

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.

Confession

Jesus said, Before you offer your gift, go and be reconciled. As brothers and sisters in God's family we come together to ask our Father for forgiveness.

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole
heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as
ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

Absolution

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Gloria in Excelsis

The Gloria is sung

**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 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

At the end of which, the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Second Reading

At the end of which, the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Let us stand to greet the Gospel of Christ

An acclamation may be sung

The Lord be with you

and also with you.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God.

We believe in God the Father,

from whom every family

in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son,

who lives in our hearts through faith,

and fills us with his love.

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.
We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

This, or another response, may be used:

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

And at the end

Merciful Father,

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

Bag Blessing

Loving God,

**Thank you for our schools, for those who
work there and the children they educate.
Please bless them in their work and play.
Thank you for my friends, neighbours and
work colleagues.**

**Thank you that I have the chance to learn
new things every day.**

**Please bless me too and help me to know
that you're there for me.**

Amen

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

God is love and those who live in love live in God
and God lives in them.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Hymn

**Yours, Lord, is the greatness,
the power, the glory, the splendour,
and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is
yours.**

**All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.**

Preparation of the Table

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.

Question Why is it right to give thanks and praise?

Answer Listen, and we will hear.

Lord of all life,

you created the universe,

where all living things reflect your glory.

You give us this great and beautiful earth,

to discover and to cherish.

You give us happy times

and things to celebrate.

In these we taste your kingdom,

a feast for all your children.

You made us all,

each wonderfully different,

to join with the angels

and sing your praise:

**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.**

We thank you, loving Father,
because, when we turned away,
you sent Jesus, your Son.
He gave his life for us on the cross
and shows us the way to live.
Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

Question Why do we share this bread and wine?

Answer **Listen, and we will hear.**

On the night before he died,
when darkness had fallen,
Jesus took bread.
He gave thanks, broke it,
and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,

for the forgiveness of sins.’
So Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.
As you feed us with these gifts,
send your Holy Spirit,
and change us more and more
to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Question How do we follow Jesus Christ?

Answer **Listen, and we will hear.**

Help us, Father, to love one another,
as we look forward to that day
when suffering is ended,
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with St Matthew and all your saints
we give you glory,
through Jesus Christ,
in the strength of the Spirit,
today and for ever.

Amen.

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.**

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be
healed.**

Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

*The president and people receive communion.
Authorized words of distribution are used and the
communicant replies **Amen.***

Hymn

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

Lord God, the source of truth and love,
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and
fellowship,
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**We thank you Lord that you have fed us
in this sacrament
United us with Christ,
And given us a foretaste of the heavenly
banquet
Prepared for all peoples.**

¶ ***The Dismissal***

Notices

Hymn

The president may use this or another blessing
The Lord bless you and watch over you
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be
gracious to you
The Lord look kindly on you and give you peace
And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and
Holy Spirit be with you and all those you love, pray,
care for and remember this day and always.

Amen.

A minister says

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

The ministers and people depart.

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