



Harvest Festival

All food donations will be given to Croydon Nightwatch

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 290 🎵

We plough the fields, and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by God's almighty hand:
He sends the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes, and the sunshine,
and soft, refreshing rain.

*All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above;
then thank the Lord,
O thank the Lord,
for all His love.*

He only is the maker
of all things near and far;
He paints the wayside flower,
He lights the evening star;
the winds and waves obey Him,
by Him the birds are fed;
much more to us, His children,
He gives our daily bread.

We thank thee then, O Father,
for all things bright and good,
the seed-time and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food.
Accept the gifts we offer
for all Thy love imparts,
and, what Thou most desirest,
our humble, thankful hearts.

*Matthias Claudius (1740-1815)
translated by Jane Montgomery Campbell
(1817-1878)*

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

We remain standing to pray together

**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.**

Please be seated

The Confession and Absolution

Invitation to confession

God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son Jesus
Christ
to save us from our sins,
to be our advocate in heaven,
and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins in
penitence and faith, firmly resolved

to keep God's commandments and
to live in love and peace with all.

**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.**

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.

Please stand

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 suitable words*

O God, forasmuch as without you
we are not able to please you;
mercifully grant that your Holy
Spirit
may in all things direct and rule our
hearts;
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.

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

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.**

Please be seated

First Reading

Psalm 8: 1-19

O LORD our Governor,
how exalted is your Name in all
the world!

²Out of the mouths of infants and
children
your majesty is praised above the
heavens.

³You have set up a stronghold
against your adversaries,
to quell the enemy and the avenger.

⁴When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you have
set in their courses,

⁵What are mortals, that you should
be mindful of them?
mere human beings, that you
should seek him out?

⁶You have made them little lower
than the angels;
you adorn them with glory and
honor;

⁷You give them mastery over the
works of your hands;
and put all things under their feet:

⁸All sheep and oxen,
even the wild beasts of the field,

⁹The birds of the air, the fish of the
sea,
and whatsoever walks in the paths
of the sea.

¹⁰O LORD our Governor,
how exalted is your Name in all
the world!

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

♪ Hymn 284 ♪

For the fruits of all creation,
thanks be to God;
for the gifts to every nation,
thanks be to God;

for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe-keeping,
thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour,
God's will is done;
in the help we give our neighbour,
God's will is done;
in our world-wide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God;
for the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God;
for the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound
us,
most of all, that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

*Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000) © 1970 Stainer &
Bell Ltd*

Second Reading

Hebrews 1: 1-4; 2: 5-12

Long ago God spoke to our
ancestors in many and various
ways by the prophets, ²but in these
last days he has spoken to us by a
Son, whom he appointed heir of all
things, through whom he also
created the worlds. ³He is the
reflection of God's glory and the
exact imprint of God's very being,
and he sustains all things by his
powerful word. When he had made

purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. ⁶But someone has testified somewhere,

‘What are human beings that you are mindful of them,
or mortals, that you care for them?

⁷You have made them for a little while lower than the angels;
you have crowned them with glory and honour,

⁸subjecting all things under their feet.’

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, ⁹but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying,

‘I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.’

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Let us stand to greet the Gospel of Christ.

The Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The word of the Lord endures for ever.

The word of the Lord is the good news announced to you.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 6: 25-34

‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they neither

sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing?

Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” ³²For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

³⁴“So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

Sermon

Let us stand to declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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.**

Please be seated

Prayers of Intercession

*To the words
Lord, hear us.*

We respond

Lord, graciously hear us.

After the final prayer we say:

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers for the
sake of your Son, our**

Saviour,

Jesus Christ.

Amen.

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Please stand

The Peace

*The President introduces the Peace
with these or other suitable words*

May the God of peace make you
perfect and holy, that you may be
kept safe and blameless in spirit,
soul and body,
for the coming of our Lord Jesus
Christ.

cf 1 Thessalonians 5.23

and then says

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

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

♪ Hymn 283 ♪

*During which we lay our harvest gifts
in front of the altar*

Fill your hearts with joy and
gladness,
sing and praise your God and
mine!
Great the Lord in love and wisdom,
might and majesty divine!
He who framed the starry heavens
knows and names them as they
shine.
Fill your hearts with joy and
gladness,
sing and praise your God and
mine!
Praise the Lord, his people, praise
him!
Wounded souls His comfort know;
those who fear Him find His
mercies,
peace for pain and joy for woe;
humble hearts are high exalted,
human pride and power laid low.
Praise the Lord, His people, praise
Him!
wounded souls His comfort know;
Praise the Lord for times and
seasons,
cloud and sunshine, wind and rain;
spring to melt the snows of winter
till the waters flow again;
grass upon the mountain pastures,
golden valleys thick with grain.

Praise the Lord for times and
seasons,
cloud and sunshine, wind and rain.
Fill your hearts with joy and
gladness,
peace and plenty crown your days!
Love His laws, declare His
judgements,
walk in all His words and ways;
He the Lord and we His children:
praise the Lord, all people, praise!
Fill your hearts with joy and
gladness,
peace and plenty crown your days!

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

**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.**

Blessing of the Harvest Gifts

The Eucharistic Prayer (F)

The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.
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.

You are worthy of our thanks and praise, Lord God of truth,
for by the breath of your mouth
you have spoken your word,
and all things have come into being.

You fashioned us in your image and
placed us in the garden of your
delight.

Though we chose the path of
rebellion
you would not abandon your own.

Again and again you drew us into
your covenant of grace.

You gave your people the law and
taught us by your prophets to look
for your reign of justice, mercy and
peace.

As we watch for the signs of your
kingdom on earth, we echo the
song of the angels in heaven,
evermore 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 God, you are the most holy
one,
enthroned in splendour and light,

yet in the coming of your Son Jesus
Christ you reveal the power of
your love made perfect in our
human weakness.

Amen. Lord, we believe.

Embracing our humanity,
Jesus showed us the way of
salvation;
loving us to the end,
he gave himself to death for us;
dying for his own,
he set us free from the bonds of
sin,
that we might rise and reign with
him
in glory.

Amen. Lord, we believe.

On the night he gave up himself for
us all he 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.

Amen. Lord, we believe.

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.

Amen. Lord, we believe.

Therefore we proclaim the death
that he suffered on the cross,
we celebrate his resurrection,
his bursting from the tomb,
we rejoice that he reigns at your
right hand on high and we long for
his coming in glory.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

As we recall the one, perfect
sacrifice of our redemption, Father,
by your Holy Spirit let these gifts
of your creation be to us the body
and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
form us into the likeness of Christ
and make us a perfect offering in
your sight.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Look with favour on your people
and in your mercy hear the cry of
our hearts.

Bless the earth,
heal the sick,
let the oppressed go free
and fill your Church with power
from on high.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Gather your people from the ends
of the earth to feast with St
Matthew and all your saints at the
table in your kingdom, where the
new creation is brought to
perfection
in 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

Rejoicing in the presence of God
here among us, let us pray with
confidence as our Saviour has
taught us:

**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

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.**

Agnus Dei

**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.**

Invitation to Communion

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus
Christ which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for
you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that
Jesus died for you,
and lives in you, and feed on him in
your hearts by faith with
thanksgiving.

**We do not presume
to come to this your table,
merciful Lord,
trusting in our own
righteousness,
but in your manifold and
great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the
crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to
have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious**

**Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your
dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may
be made clean by his body
and our souls washed
through his most precious
blood,
and that we may evermore
dwell in him and he in us.
Amen.**

*Communicant members of any
Christian Church are invited to receive
Holy Communion. If you wish to
receive a blessing please bow your
head.*

Hymn 639

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ, His Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ, His Son.

And now let the weak say, 'I am
strong',

let the poor say, 'I am rich',
because of what the Lord
has done for us.

And now let the weak say, 'I am
strong',

let the poor say, 'I am rich',
because of what the Lord
has done for us:

Repeat

Last time:

give thanks.

*Henry Smith (b. 1952) © 1978 Integrity's
Hosanna! Music. Administered by Kingsway's
Thankyou Music*

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

Holy and blessed God,
you have fed us with the body and
blood of your Son
and filled us with your Holy Spirit:
may we honour you,
not only with our lips
but in lives dedicated to the
service
of Jesus Christ our 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.**

Dismissal

Notices

♪ 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)*

The Blessing

The President uses this or another suitable blessing

The peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our
Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy
Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you
and all those whom you love and
all those for whom you pray this
day and
for evermore.

Amen.

Tend the earth,
care for God's good creation,
and bring forth the fruits of
righteousness.

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

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