



# **Black History Month Service of Thanksgiving**

**St Matthew's Croydon**

# **The Gathering**

## **Processional Hymn (365)**

Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

*Refrain:*

*All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true.  
Where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus;

*Refrain*

Let us build a house where love is found  
in water, wine and wheat;  
a banquet hall on holy ground,  
where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
is revealed in time and space,  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us;

*Refrain*

Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone,  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
bears the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger:

*Refrain*

Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace.  
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

### *Refrain*

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In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## **The Greeting**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

## **Prayers of Penitence**

God's whole creation groans.

The land produces thorns and thistles and longs to be set free. Our sin  
affects all around us.

We confess our sins in penitence and faith.

**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.**

## **The Gloria**

*The Gloria may be said or 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: Prayer for Today**

Compassionate God,  
who sent Jesus Christ  
to deliver us from all manner of injustices and inequalities,  
create in us new hearts and enlarged visions,  
to see the image of God in every person  
irrespective of background, race and ethnicity.  
May we be generous in our love of others  
as we work towards ending misunderstanding, racism and injustice;  
creating communities of human flourishing,  
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.**

*Silence is kept.*

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

### **Readings**

*Please be seated*

*A reading from N*

*At the end of the reading, the reader says:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*A reading from N*

*At the end of the reading, the reader says:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Hymn**

We Have a Dream (*Tune: Woodlands*)

We have a dream: this nation will arise,  
and truly live according to its creed,  
that all are equal in their makers eyes,  
and none shall suffer through another's greed

We have a dream; our children shall be free  
from judgements based on colour or on race;  
free to become whatever they may be,  
of their own choosing in the light of grace.

We have a dream that truth will overcome  
the fear and anger of our present day;  
that black and white will share a common home,  
and hand in hand will walk the pilgrim way.

*Text: Michael Forster, b. 1946, © 1997, Kevin Mayhew, Ltd.*

*Tune: George W. Warren, 1828-1902*

## **The Gospel Reading**

*Please stand for the Gospel.*

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 of the Gospel reading, the reader says:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you O Christ.**

## **The Sermon**

*After the sermon a short period of silent reflection is kept before we stand to declare our faith.*

## **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**

*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.**

### **The Liturgy of the Sacrament The Peace**

*Please stand*

We are the body of Christ.  
In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.  
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace  
and builds up our common life.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

### **Offertory Hymn**

Come to God's table, for all is prepared,  
the bread that we offer is broken and shared,  
Christ's presence among us is food for the soul,  
reviving, renewing, and making us whole.

Come to God's table, and drink of the wine,  
the blood of the Saviour, in mystery divine,  
the cup of salvation both priceless and free,  
transforming God's people to all we can be.

Come to God's table, we come as we are,  
we bring all the burdens we've carried so far,  
in body, in spirit, in soul, mind and heart,  
to feed on the grace only God can impart.

Come to God's table! then go in God's grace  
to hold all the earth in a heav'nly embrace,  
sent out in the Spirit to tend and to care  
in thought, word and action, our life is our prayer.

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Tune: 'Slane'*

## **The Offertory Prayers**

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.

**Blessed be God forever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.  
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer  
Fruit of the vine and the work of human hands  
It will become for us the cup of salvation.

**Blessed be God forever.**

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For though the human race  
is divided by dissension and discord,  
Christ calls us in his death and resurrection  
To embody hearts of change  
and his work of reconciliation.

By your Spirit you gave courage to overcome fears  
and to seek the unity of all.

By the working of your power,



hatred is overcome by love,  
revenge give way to forgiveness,  
and division is transformed by mutual respect and humility.

Therefore, we give you ceaseless thanks,  
and join with choirs of angels  
and with all the heavenly host,  
to proclaim your glory  
in their unending song of 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.**

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.  
Great is the mystery of Faith.

**Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

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  
Mary the Mother of God, Matthew 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**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

Our Father which art in heaven,  
**Hallowed be Thy name.**  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,  
**Hallowed be Thy name.**

On the earth as it is in heaven,  
**Hallowed be Thy name.**  
And give us now our daily bread,  
**Hallowed be Thy name.**

And forgive us all our trespasses,  
**Hallowed be Thy name.**  
As we forgive those who trespass against us,  
**Hallowed be Thy name.**

And lead us not to the devil to be tempted,  
**Hallowed be Thy name.**  
But deliver us from all that is evil,  
**Hallowed be Thy name.**

For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
**Hallowed be Thy name.**  
Forever, and ever, and ever, and ever,  
**Hallowed be Thy name.**

Amen, Amen, Amen,

**Hallowed be Thy name.**

Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.

**Hallowed be Thy name.**

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.**

## **The 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.**

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.**

## **Communion**

*All baptised Christians are welcome to receive communion. If you would prefer a blessing, please cross your hands over your shoulders.*

## **Prayer after Communion**

*We stand when the president says:*

*'Let us pray'*

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.**

**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.**

## **Notices**

### **Final Hymn**

And can it be that I should gain  
an interest in the Saviour's blood?  
Died He for me, who caused His pain?  
For me, who Him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be  
that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?  
Amazing love! How can it be,  
that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

'Tis mystery all: the Immortal dies!  
Who can explore His strange design?  
In vain the first-born seraph tries  
to sound the depths of love divine.  
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,  
let angel minds inquire no more.  
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore;  
let angel minds inquire no more.

He left his Father's throne above —  
so free, so infinite His grace —  
emptied Himself of all but love,  
and bled for Adam's helpless race.  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,  
for O my God, it found out me!  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,  
for O my God, it found out me!

Long my imprisoned spirit lay  
fast bound in sin and nature's night;  
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray,  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;  
my chains fell off, my heart was free,  
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee;

my chains fell off, my heart was free,  
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

No condemnation now I dread;  
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!  
Alive in Him, my living Head,  
and clothed in righteousness divine,  
bold I approach the eternal throne,  
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own;  
bold I approach the eternal throne,  
and claim the crown, through Christ my own.

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

## **The Blessing and Sending Out**

The Lord be with you.

### **And also with you.**

The love of the Lord Jesus  
draw you to himself  
the power of the Lord Jesus  
strengthen you in his service,  
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;  
and the blessing of God Almighty  
✠ The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

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