



St Matthew Croydon
James Reid Licensing Service
19th October 2025

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 (775)

Seek ye first the kingdom of God,
and His righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you;
Allelu, alleluia:

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
allelu, alleluia.*

Ask, and it shall be given unto you,
seek, and ye shall find;
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you;
Allelu, alleluia:

We shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord;
Allelu, alleluia:

*v1 Karen Lafferty (b.1948), vv. 2,3 unknown,
based on Matthew 6.33, 7.7*

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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.**

Prayers of Penitence

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.**

The president says

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 Collect is said, and all respond
Amen.

¶ 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.

Song

Bless the Lord

*O my soul, O my soul,
worship His holy name.*

*Sing like never before,
O my soul,
I'll worship Your holy name.*

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning.

It's time to sing Your song again.

Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me,
let me be singing when the evening comes.

You're rich in love

and You're slow to anger,

Your name is great,

and Your heart is kind.

For all Your goodness,

I will keep on singing,

10,000 reasons for my heart to find.

And on that day
when my strength is failing,
the end draws near
and my time has come.
Still my soul will
sing Your praise unending:
ten thousand years,
and then forevermore.

Matt Redman © 2011 Thankyou Music

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

**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.**

The Licensing

The Reader should stand before the congregation. The Parish Sponsor who supported him in the licensing should also stand.

Parish priest: The Church of England admits lay women and men to the office of Reader. Their duties are to teach the faith, to enable mission in everyday life, and to be leaders in church and in society.

James, you have been admitted to the office of Reader and the Bishop has licensed you to minister (*or granted you permission to officiate*) in this parish. Are you willing to exercise this ministry in this parish?

Reader: I am, the Lord being my helper.

The Reader faces the congregation and reads out the licence or the Permission to Officiate.

Priest: As vicar of this parish, and on behalf of the clergy and Readers of this parish, I welcome you to share in our ministry.

I present to you James as a Reader in this parish. Will you support him with your prayers, your love and your loyalty and so help him in the work and development of his ministry?

All, led by the Parish Sponsor: We will.

A churchwarden (or both): As churchwarden(s) of St Matthew's Parish we welcome you in the name of the people and pray that God may bless your ministry among us.

The Reader faces the priest.

Priest: May God guide you in all your work undertaken in his name and keep you faithful in his service. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

The Reader again turns to the congregation.

Reader: Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole church is sanctified;
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful
people,
that each in their vocation and ministry
may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Parish Sponsor

We pray for the renewal of the church in faith, love and service. We pray for Christopher and Rosemarie our Bishops and for James as he begins his new role in this parish. We give thanks for the gift of your word, the grace of the sacraments and the fellowship of your people. **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

The president may introduce the Peace with a suitable sentence, and then says

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 (678)

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest
drought and storm.

What heights of love,
what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled,
when strivings cease!

My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! — who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones He came to save:

till on that cross as Jesus died,
the love of God was magnified —
for every sin on Him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain:
then bursting forth in glorious day
up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am His and He is mine —
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from His hand;
till He returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

Stuart Townend (b.1963) & Keith Getty (b.1974)
© 2001 *Thankyou Music*

**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.

It is indeed right,
it is our duty and our joy,
at all times and in all places
to give you thanks and praise,
holy Father, heavenly King,
almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

The following may be omitted if a Short Proper Preface is used

[For he is your living Word;
through him you have created all things from the
beginning,
and formed us in your own image.
Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin,
giving him to be born of a woman and to die upon the
cross;
you raised him from the dead
and exalted him to your right hand on high.
Through him you have sent upon us
your holy and life-giving Spirit,
and made us a people for your own possession.]

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

**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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit

these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;
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.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious
ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.
Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

Chant

The Lord's Prayer

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 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 may be sung

**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.**

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.**

**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.**

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

Hymn

Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness,
opened my eyes, let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore You,
hope of a life spent with You.

Here I am to worship,
here I am to bow down,
here I am to say that You're my God.
You're altogether lovely,
altogether worthy,
altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days,
O so highly exalted,
glorious in heaven above.
Humbly You came to the earth You created,
all for love's sake became poor.

Here I am to worship,
here I am to bow down,
here I am to say that You're my God.
You're altogether lovely,
altogether worthy,
altogether wonderful to me.

I'll never know how much it cost,
to see my sin upon that cross. *repeat*

Here I am to worship,
here I am to bow down,
here I am to say that You're my God.
You're altogether lovely,
altogether worthy,
altogether wonderful to me.

Mark Hayes / Tim Hughes

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Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

The Post Communion prayer is said.

**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

Notices

Hymn (667)

I danced in the morning
when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon
and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven
and I danced on the earth,
at Bethlehem I had my birth.

*Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

I danced for the Scribe
and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance
and they wouldn't follow me;
I danced for the fishermen,
for James and John;
they came with me
and the dance went on.

I danced on the Sabbath
and I cured the lame;
the holy people

said it was a shame;
They whipped and they stripped
and they hung me on high;
and they left me there on a cross to die.

I danced on a Friday
and the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance
with the devil on your back.
They buried my body,
and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the dance, and I still go on.

They cut me down
and I leapt up high;
I am the Life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

Sydney Carter (1915-2004) © 1963 Stainer & Bell Ltd

The president may use this or another 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 among you and remain with you and with all those
you love and care for, this day and for evermore.

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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