



**Second Sunday of Advent  
and Toy 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.*

## ♪ Hymn (691) ♪

Jesus, you’re coming, bringing the love  
That draws the earth near to heaven  
above,  
We’ll wait as the darkness covers the  
earth,  
And long for the joy of remembering  
your birth.

We’ll kindle a flame to shine through  
the night,  
Living our lives to shine with your light,  
And sharing your love in all that we do,  
your wonderful story is our story too.

Fruit of the seasons, blessings to share,  
This wondrous creation placed in our  
care,  
The city and forest, ocean and land,  
The whole world is treasured in God’s  
gentle hand.

We’ll kindle a flame to shine through  
the night,  
Living our lives to shine with your light,  
And sharing your love in all that we do,  
your wonderful story is our story too.

Love like a circle, love never ends,  
The love of a God who calls us your  
friends,  
A love without price, a free gift of grace,  
That holds all the world in a heavenly  
embrace.

We’ll kindle a flame to shine through  
the night,  
Living our lives to shine with your light,  
And sharing your love in all that we do,  
Your wonderful story is our story too.

*Rev Ally Barrett*

## ¶ **The Gathering**

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

Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them  
high, O everlasting doors, and the  
king of glory shall come in.

*Psalm 24.7*

### **Prayer of Preparation**

**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.**

### **The lighting of the second advent candle**

#### **Advent 2: the candle for the Prophets, the candle of Peace**

Prayer: God our Father, you spoke to  
the prophets of old of a Saviour who  
would bring peace. You helped them  
to spread the joyful message of his  
coming kingdom. Help us, as we  
prepare to celebrate his birth, to  
share with those around us the good  
news of your power and love. We ask

this through Jesus Christ, the light  
who is coming into the world.

**Lord Jesus, light of the world,  
the prophets said you would  
bring peace and save your  
people in trouble. Give peace  
in our hearts at Christmas  
and show all the world God's  
love. Amen**

*Please be seated*

### **The Confession and Absolution**

#### **Invitation to confession**

A voice cries out in the wilderness,  
'Make straight the way of the Lord.'  
So let us listen, and turn to the Lord  
in penitence and faith.

*cf John 1.23*

God, through Jesus Christ,  
will judge the secret thoughts of all:  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord,  
Lord,' will enter the kingdom of  
heaven:

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Let anyone who has an ear  
listen to what the Spirit is saying  
to the churches:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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 Collect**

*A period of silent prayer*

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power  
and come among us,  
and with great might succour us;  
that whereas, through our sins and  
wickedness  
we are grievously hindered  
in running the race that is set before  
us,  
your bountiful grace and mercy  
may speedily help and deliver us;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our  
Lord,  
to whom with you and the Holy  
Spirit,  
be honour and glory, 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.**

## **First Reading**

*At the end:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **♪ Song (676) ♪**

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessèd, most glorious,  
the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious,  
Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting,  
Thou rulest in might;  
Thy justice like mountains  
high soaring above,  
Thy clouds which are fountains of  
goodness and love.

To all life Thou givest,  
to both great and small;  
in all life Thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish  
as leaves on the tree,  
and wither and perish;  
but naught changeth Thee.

Great Father of glory,  
pure Father of light,  
Thine angels adore Thee,  
all veiling their sight;  
all laud we would render:  
O help us to see  
'tis only the splendour  
of light hideth Thee.

*Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908) based on 1  
Timothy 1.17*

## Second Reading

*At the end:*

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.**

Prepare the way of the Lord, make  
his paths straight, and all flesh shall  
see the salvation of God.

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

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.**

## The Sermon

### Profession of Faith

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe and trust in God the  
Father, source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

**I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the  
Son, who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

**I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the  
Holy Spirit, who gives life to the  
people of God and makes Christ  
known in the world?

**I believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one  
God, Father, Son and Holy  
Spirit.**

## Prayers of Intercession

In joyful expectation of his coming to  
our aid we pray to Jesus.

Come to your Church as Lord and  
judge.

We pray for...

Help us to live in the light of your  
coming and give us a longing for your  
kingdom.

Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to your world as King of the  
nations.

We pray for...

Before you rulers will stand in  
silence.

Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to the suffering as Saviour and  
comforter.

We pray for...

Break into our lives, where we  
struggle with sickness and distress,  
and set us free to serve you for ever.

Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls.

We remember...

Give us with all the faithful departed a share in your victory over evil and death.

Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power and great glory.

Lift us up to meet you, that with all your saints and angels we may live and reign with you in your new creation.

Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

*Silence is kept.*

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay; give new courage to your people, who trust in your love.

By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom on earth as in

heaven, where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## ¶ **The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

*Please stand*

### **The Peace**

May the God of peace make you completely holy, ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**and also with you.**

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

*During the hymn please do bring any toys up to the altar*

## ♪ **Hymn (748)** ♪

O Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end; be Thou for ever near me, my Master and my Friend: I shall not fear the battle if Thou art by my side, nor wander from the pathway if Thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel Thee near me: the world is ever near; I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear; my foes are ever near me, around me and within; but, Jesus, draw Thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear Thee speaking in accents clear and still, above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will; O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control; O speak, and make me listen, Thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, Thou hast promised to all who follow Thee, that where Thou art in glory there shall Thy servant be; and, Jesus, I have promised

to serve Thee to the end:  
O give me grace to follow,  
my Master and my Friend.

O let me see Thy foot-marks,  
and in them plant mine own:  
my hope to follow duly  
is in Thy strength alone.  
O guide me, call me, draw me,  
uphold me to the end;  
and then in heaven receive me,  
my Saviour and my Friend.

*John Ernest Bode (1816-1874)*

## **Blessing of the Toys**

**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.**

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

*(from the First Sunday of Advent until  
8th December)*

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 and good to give  
you thanks and praise, almighty God  
and everlasting Father,  
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself to  
come among us in human flesh,  
he fulfilled the plan you formed  
before the foundation of the world  
to open for us the way of salvation.  
Confident that your promise will be  
fulfilled, we now watch for the day  
when Christ our Lord will come  
again in glory.

And so we join our voices with  
angels and archangels  
and with all the company of heaven  
to proclaim your glory  
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.]**

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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life:  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

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 St  
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.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Awaiting his coming in glory,  
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**

Every time we eat this bread  
and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death  
until he comes.**

## **Agnus Dei**

**Jesus, Lamb of God,  
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,  
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
give us your 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.**

*Communicant members of any Christian Church are invited to receive Holy Communion. Children and those who are not confirmed are welcome to come forward for a blessing. If you wish to receive a blessing please bow your head.*

♪ **Anthem** ♪

♪ **Hymn (787)** ♪

Take my life, and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
take my moments and my days,  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move  
at the impulse of Thy love;  
take my feet, and let them be  
swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing  
always, only, for my King;  
take my lips, and let them be  
filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold;  
not a mite would I withhold;  
take my intellect, and use  
every power as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it Thine:  
it shall be no longer mine;  
take my heart: it is Thine own;  
it shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at Thy feet its treasure-store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for Thee.

*Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879)*

## Prayer after Communion

*Silence is kept.*

Father in heaven,  
who sent your Son to redeem the  
world  
and will send him again to be our  
judge:  
give us grace so to imitate him  
in the humility and purity of his first  
coming  
that, when he comes again,  
we may be ready to greet him  
with joyful love and firm faith;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**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.  
Send us out  
in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work  
to your praise and glory.  
Amen.**

## Notices

## ♪ Hymn (719) ♪

Lord, the light of Your love is shining,  
in the midst of the darkness shining:  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon  
us;

set us free by the truth You now  
bring us:

shine on me, shine on me.

*Shine, Jesus, shine,  
fill this land with the Father's glory;  
blaze, Spirit, blaze,  
set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow,  
flood the nations with grace and mercy;  
send forth Your word, Lord,  
and let there be light!*

Lord, I come to Your awesome  
presence,  
from the shadows into Your radiance;  
by the blood I may enter Your  
brightness:

search me, try me, consume all my  
darkness:

shine on me, shine on me.

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness  
so our faces display Your likeness,  
ever changing from glory to glory:  
mirrored here may our lives tell Your  
story:

shine on me, shine on me.

*Graham Kendrick (b. 1950) © 1987 Make Way  
Music*

## ¶ Dismissal

### The Blessing

May God himself, the God of peace,  
make you perfect and holy,  
and keep you safe and blameless, in  
spirit, soul and body,  
for the coming of our Lord Jesus  
Christ;

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.**

Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

May the Lord, when he comes,  
find us watching and waiting.

**Amen.**

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