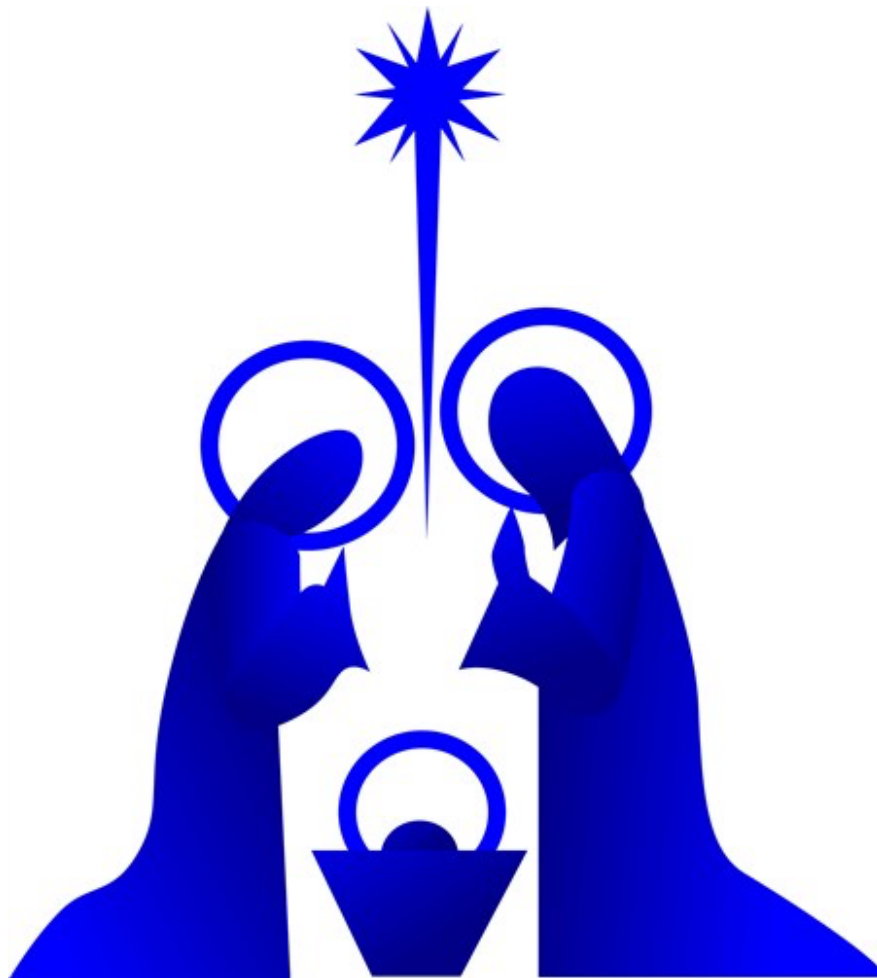




St Matthew's Church
Chichester Road, Croydon



Christmas Morning

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.

♪ **Carol** ♪

The Greeting

The president greets the people

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

and also with you

Prayers of Penitence

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Silence is kept.

God our Father,
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Jesus our Saviour,
you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Spirit of love,
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself,
that you may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
and be cleansed from all your sins,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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 the words*

Let us pray in the peace of this Christmas
celebration that our joy in the birth of
Christ will last for ever.

Silence is kept.

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

♪ **Carol** ♪

Second Reading

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Gospel Acclamation:

Today Christ is born:

alleluia.

Today the Saviour has come:

alleluia.

Today the angels sing on earth:

**alleluia. Glory to God in the
highest.**

The Lord be with you

and also with you.

*When the Gospel is announced the reader
says*

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.

Address

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

In peace let us pray to the Lord.
Father, On this holy day your Son our
Saviour
was born in human flesh.

Renew your Church as the Body of
Christ.
Holy God
hear our prayer.

On this holy day there was no room for
your Son in the inn.
Protect with your love those who have
no home
and all who live in poverty.
Holy God
hear our prayer.

On this holy day Mary, in the pain of
labour,
brought your Son to birth.
Hold in your hand all who are in pain or
distress.
Holy God
hear our prayer.

On this holy day your Christ came as a
light shining in the darkness.
Bring comfort to all who suffer in the
sadness of our world.
Holy God

hear our prayer.

On this holy day the angels sang, 'Peace to
God's people on earth.'
Strengthen those who work for peace
and justice
in all the world.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

On this holy day shepherds in the field
heard good tidings of joy.
Give us grace to preach the gospel of
Christ's redemption.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

On this holy day strangers found the Holy
Family,
and saw the baby lying in the manger.
Bless our homes and all whom we love.
Holy God

hear our prayer.

On this holy day heaven is come down to
earth,
and earth is raised to heaven.
Hold in your hand [...and] all those who
have passed through death
in the hope of your coming kingdom.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

On this holy day Christians the world
over celebrate Christ's birth.
Open our hearts that he may be born in
us today.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

Father,
On this holy day angels and shepherds
worshipped at
the manger throne.
Receive the worship we offer in
fellowship with Mary,
Joseph and the saints
through him who is your Word made
flesh,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is
given, and his name shall be called the
Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9.6

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

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

All may exchange a sign of peace.

♪ **Carol** ♪

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine

This prayer may be said

Word made flesh, life of the world,
in your incarnation you embraced our
poverty:
by your Spirit may we share in your
riches.

Amen.

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.

And now we give you thanks
because for love of our fallen race
he most wonderfully and humbly chose to
be made man,
and to take our nature as nevermore to
lay it by,
so that we might be born again by your
Spirit
and restored in your image.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious
name,
for ever 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, 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.

[Christ is the bread of life:]

**When we eat this bread and
drink this cup,
we proclaim your death, Lord
Jesus,
until you 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 [N 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

The Lord's Prayer is said

Rejoicing in the presence of God here
among us,
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 the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

**God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

*The Agnus Dei may be used as the bread is
broken.*

Giving of Communion

Christ is the true bread which has come
down from heaven.

Lord, give us this bread always.

*The president invites the people to receive
communion. During communion, the choir
may sing an anthem.*

Amen

♪ **Carol** ♪

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

*The President may say Post Communion
Prayer*

**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**

♪ **Carol** ♪

The Dismissal Gospel

Hear the good news of the Word made flesh according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

John 1.1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.²He was in the beginning with God.³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Blessing

May the Father,
who has loved the eternal Son
from before the foundation of the world,
shed that love upon you his children.

Amen.

May Christ,
who by his incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with joy and peace.

Amen.

May the Holy Spirit,
by whose overshadowing Mary became
the God-bearer,
give you grace to carry the good news of
Christ.

Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you
always.

Amen.

**Wishing you a truly Blessed Christmas
and a Peaceful New Year**

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