



***St Matthew Croydon***

***Third Sunday of Lent***

***All Age Service***

***Celebrating International Women's Day***

**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 (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!

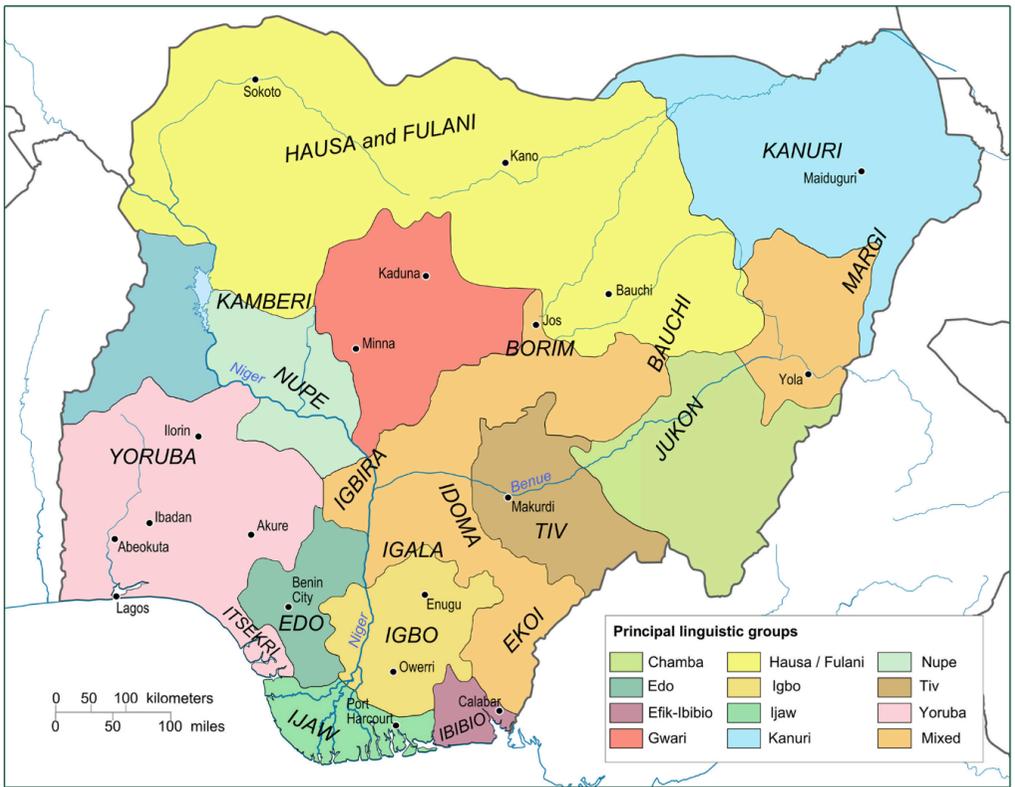
My Comforter, my All in All,  
here in the love of Christ I stand.

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



*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**

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love:

fill us with your Spirit.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith:

fill us with your Spirit.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust:  
fill us with your Spirit.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*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.**

## **The Collect**

Almighty God,

whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he  
suffered pain,

and entered not into glory before he was crucified:

mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,  
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;

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***

### **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**

#### **Hymn**

Ekene diri Chineke nna  
Ekene diri nwa ya  
Ekene diri onye kere uwa  
Obu ya na eme mma

Ekene diri Chineke nna  
Ekene diri nwa ya  
Ekene diri onye kere uwa  
Obu ya na eme mma

Ekene diri Chineke nna  
Ekene diri nwa ya  
Ekene diri onye kere uwa  
Obu ya na eme mma

## Second Reading

*Luke 10. 38-42*

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. <sup>39</sup>She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. <sup>40</sup>But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

<sup>41</sup>"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, <sup>42</sup>but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

*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

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

The Lord is a great God, O that today you would listen to his voice. Harden not your hearts.

**Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

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.**

Let us now turn our hearts and minds to the words of Jesus found in the Gospel of Matthew. Let us hear these words as a gracious invitation from the very heart of God Jesus is saying .

*Matthew 11:28-30*

“Come to me, all you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke and put it on you and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in spirit, and you will find rest. For my yoke I will give you and the load I will put on you is light.”

*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.**

### **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**

Since we are justified by faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has given us access to his grace.

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**

What a friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry  
everything to God in prayer!

Oh, what peace we often forfeit,  
oh, what needless pain we bear,  
all because we do not carry  
everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged—  
take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful,  
who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness;  
take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden,  
cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Saviour, still our refuge—  
take it to the Lord in prayer.

Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,  
thou wilt find a solace there.

Blessed Saviour, Thou hast promised  
Thou wilt all our burdens bear;  
may we ever, Lord, be bringing  
all to Thee in earnest prayer.  
Soon in glory bright, unclouded,  
there will be no need for prayer—  
rapture, praise, and endless worship  
will be our sweet portion there.

*Joseph M. Scriven (1819-1886)*

## **Preparation of the Table**

God of our journey,  
as we walk with you on your path of obedience,  
sustain us on our way and lead us to your glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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.**

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

For in these forty days  
you lead us into the desert of repentance  
that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline  
we may grow in grace  
and learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service  
you bring us back to your generous heart.  
Through study of your holy word  
you open our eyes to your presence in the world  
and free our hands to welcome others  
into the radiant splendour of your love.  
As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast  
with joyful hearts and minds  
we bless you for your mercy  
and join with saints and angels  
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.**

## **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.**

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

## 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.*

Merciful Lord,  
grant your people grace to withstand the temptations  
of the world, the flesh and the devil,  
and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only  
God;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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 (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*

*The president may use this or another blessing*

May God the Father,  
who does not despise the broken spirit,  
give to you a contrite heart.

**Amen.**

May Christ,  
who bore our sins in his body on the tree,  
heal you by his wounds.

**Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit,  
who leads us into all truth,  
speak to you words of pardon and peace.

**Amen.**

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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