



***St Matthew Croydon***  
***Pet & Bag Blessing 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.**

# **The Gathering**

## **Hymn**

*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.**

## **Confession**

Jesus said, Before you offer your gift, go and be reconciled. As brothers and sisters in God's family we come together to ask our Father for forgiveness.

**Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as  
ourselves.  
In your mercy  
forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly,  
love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God.  
Amen.**

## **Absolution**

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 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.**

## **Hymn**

## **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.**

## **Talk**

## **The Creed**

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

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

## **Pet Blessing**

Look upon our animals, O God which share our homes and our lives, and which inspire us with their love and loyalty.

Bless them for the pleasure and companionship they give us

And for the work they do to help humankind.

Protect all those who suffer neglect and cruelty we pray and bring them the help they need through Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

**We commit ourselves to care for the world God has given us; to care for all creatures, to cherish and provide for the pets and animals in our care and to protect any animal we find in distress.**

Heavenly God, giver of all life,

Fill our hearts with generosity and love

That we may fulfil what we have promised;

Bless O Lord, these creatures

And all who are involved in their care and protection.

May our awareness of their needs

Make us sensitive to the needs of every creature,

For we ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen** 

## **Bag Blessing**

**Loving God,**

**Thank you for our schools, for those who work there and the children they educate.**

**Please bless them in their work and play.**

**Thank you for my friends, neighbours and work colleagues.**

**Thank you that I have the chance to learn new things every day.**

**Please bless me too and help me to know that you're there for me.**

**Amen**

## **¶ *The Liturgy of the Sacrament***

### **The Peace**

God is love and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them.

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

**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.**

Question Why is it right to give thanks and praise?

**Answer Listen, and we will hear.**

Lord of all life,  
you created the universe,  
where all living things reflect your glory.  
You give us this great and beautiful earth,  
to discover and to cherish.

You give us happy times  
and things to celebrate.  
In these we taste your kingdom,  
a feast for all your children.  
You made us all,  
each wonderfully different,  
to join with the angels  
and sing your 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.**

We thank you, loving Father,  
because, when we turned away,  
you sent Jesus, your Son.  
He gave his life for us on the cross  
and shows us the way to live.  
Send your Holy Spirit  
that these gifts of bread and wine  
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

Question Why do we share this bread and wine?

Answer **Listen, and we will hear.**

On the night before he died,  
when darkness had fallen,  
Jesus took bread.  
He gave thanks, broke it,  
and shared it with his disciples, saying:  
'This is my body, given for you.  
Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,  
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:  
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,  
for the forgiveness of sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup  
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.  
As you feed us with these gifts,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
and change us more and more  
to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Question How do we follow Jesus Christ?

Answer **Listen, and we will hear.**

Help us, Father, to love one another,  
as we look forward to that day  
when suffering is ended,  
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.  
And now with St Matthew, St Francis and all your saints  
we give you glory,  
through Jesus Christ,  
in the strength of the Spirit,  
today and for ever.

**Amen.**

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.**

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.**

**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.**

## **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**

### **Prayer after Communion**

*Silence is kept.*

**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.**

## ¶ ***The Dismissal***

### **Notices**

### **Hymn**

*The president may use this or another blessing*

The Lord bless you and watch over you

The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you

The Lord look kindly on you and give you peace

And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you and all those you love, pray, care for and remember this day and always.

**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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