



St Matthew Croydon
Creationtide

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.

In the book of Genesis we are told that God created the world and “saw that it was good”. Rich, diverse and fragile, the creation reflected something of God’s glory.

We are then told that humanity was created in God’s image as stewards of God’s creation. Reflecting in a particular way God’s creativity, wisdom and compassion, we are called to care for God’s creation.

During Creationtide the church celebrates the Creator and God’s Creation. We confess our abuses of creation and seek inspiration to find ways of living in balance with the world God reconciled to himself through Christ.

¶ The Gathering

Hymn

The president may say
In the name of God,
Creator, Sustainer and Redeemer
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

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's whole creation groans.

The land produces thorns and thistle and longs to be set free.

Our sin affects all around us.

We confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Please sit or kneel for the confession

Creator God,

we confess that we have not honoured and obeyed you.

We have broken our relationships with one another,

abused your fragile creation,

wounded your love and marred your holy image in us.

We are sorry and ashamed and repent of all our sins.

Father, forgive us.

Lead us from apathy to love.

Strengthen us as stewards of your precious people

and of your glorious creation,

for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who died for us.

Amen

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ
has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed:
forgive you your sins,
open your eyes to God's truth,
strengthen you to do God's will
and give you the joy of his kingdom
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please stand to sing

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

Let us pray.

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.

Gradual Hymn

Please be seated. The children leave for Young Church.

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

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

We say together in faith:

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come.**

**We believe in God the Father, who created all things:
for by his will they were created and have their being.**

**We believe in God the Son who was slain,
for with his blood he purchased us for God
from every tribe and language,
from every people and nation.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit and the Bride say 'Come'.

Even so, come Lord Jesus!

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Please sit or kneel for the prayers

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

Please stand

God has called us to live in peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you

or

To crown all things there must be love,
to bind all together and complete the whole.
Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

or

You shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

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.

Offertory Hymn

*The gifts of the people are gathered and presented.
The table is prepared – bread and wine placed upon it*

The Priest takes the bread and wine:

As the grain once scattered in the fields
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside
are now reunited on this table in bread and wine,
so Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together
from the corners of the earth into your kingdom.

Amen

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.

Blessed are you, Lord God, our light and our salvation,
to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the beginning you have created all things
and all your works echo the silent music of your praise.

In the fullness of time you made us in your image,
the crown of all creation.

You give us breath and speech, that with angels and
archangels
and all the powers of heaven
we may find a voice to 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.**

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,
you embraced a people as your own.
When they turned away and rebelled
your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour,
born of Mary, to be the living bread,
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.

He offered his life for sinners,
and with a love stronger than death
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died,
he came to supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he gave you thanks.
He broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Father, we plead with confidence
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;
we remember his dying and rising in glory,
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you
these gifts of your creation;
may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence,
form us in the likeness of Christ,
and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Remember, Lord, your Church in every land.
Reveal her unity, guard her faith, and preserve her in peace

Bring us at the last with *N* and all the saints
to the vision of that eternal splendour
for which you have created us;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
by whom, with whom, and in whom,

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.**

As the children return from Young Church, we sing

♪ **Chant (CAHON 929)** ♪

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,
in the Lord, I will rejoice!
Look to God, do not be afraid;
lift up your voices: the Lord is near,
lift up your voices: the Lord is near.

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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

Draw near with faith,
receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The president and people receive communion.

*Authorized words of distribution are used and the
communicant replies Amen.*

Hymn

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

The post Communion Prayer is said

**Lord of all creation,
as we have received the bread and wine,
fruits of the earth and tokens of salvation,
so with joy we celebrate your goodness
and commit ourselves to serve you on your earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The president and people receive communion.

*Authorized words of distribution are used and the
communicant replies **Amen.***

¶ The Dismissal

Notices

Hymn

The president may use this or another blessing

May God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the source of all goodness and growth,
pour his blessing upon all things created,
and upon you his children,
that you may use his gifts to his glory
and the welfare of all peoples;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you 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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