



Harvest Festival

All food donations will be given to Local Charities

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 290 🎵

We plough the fields, and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by God's almighty hand:
He sends the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes, and the sunshine,
and soft, refreshing rain.

*All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above;
then thank the Lord,
O thank the Lord,
for all His love.*

He only is the maker
of all things near and far;
He paints the wayside flower,
He lights the evening star;
the winds and waves obey Him,
by Him the birds are fed;
much more to us, His children,
He gives our daily bread.

We thank thee then, O Father,
for all things bright and good,
the seed-time and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food.
Accept the gifts we offer
for all Thy love imparts,
and, what Thou most desirest,
our humble, thankful hearts.

*Matthias Claudius (1740-1815)
translated by Jane Montgomery Campbell
(1817-1878)*

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

We remain standing to pray together

**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.**

Please be seated

The Confession and Absolution

Invitation to confession

God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son Jesus
Christ
to save us from our sins,
to be our advocate in heaven,
and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins in
penitence and faith, firmly resolved

to keep God's commandments and
to live in love and peace with all.

**Almighty God,
our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and
deed,
through negligence,
through weakness,
through our own deliberate
fault.**

**We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son
Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may
serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

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.

Please stand

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 suitable words*

O God, forasmuch as without you
we are not able to please you;
mercifully grant that your Holy
Spirit
may in all things direct and rule our
hearts;
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

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.**

Please be seated

First Reading

Exodus 32: 1-14

When the people saw that Moses
delayed to come down from the
mountain, the people gathered
around Aaron and said to him,

‘Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’ ²Aaron said to them, ‘Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.’ ³So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. ⁴He took the gold from them, formed it in a mould,^a and cast an image of a calf; and they said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’ ⁵When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, ‘Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord.’ ⁶They rose early the next day, and offered burnt-offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel. ⁷The Lord said to Moses, ‘Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshipped it and sacrificed to it, and said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” ’ ⁹The Lord said to Moses, ‘I have seen this

people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.’

¹¹But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, ‘O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the Egyptians say, “It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth”? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people.

¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, “I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it for ever.” ’ ¹⁴And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

♪ Hymn 284 ♪

For the fruits of all creation,
thanks be to God;
for the gifts to every nation,
thanks be to God;
for the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe-keeping,
thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour,
God's will is done;
in the help we give our neighbour,
God's will is done;
in our world-wide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God;
for the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God;
for the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000) © 1970 Stainer & Bell Ltd

Second Reading

Philippians 4: 1-9

Therefore, my brothers and sisters,
whom I love and long for, my joy
and crown, stand firm in the Lord
in this way, my beloved.

²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche
to be of the same mind in the Lord.

³Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal
companion, help these women, for
they have struggled beside me in
the work of the gospel, together
with Clement and the rest of my
co-workers, whose names are in
the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I
will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your
gentleness be known to everyone.
The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry
about anything, but in everything by
prayer and supplication with
thanksgiving let your requests be
made known to God. ⁷And the
peace of God, which surpasses all
understanding, will guard your
hearts and your minds in Christ
Jesus.

⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true,
whatever is honourable, whatever
is just, whatever is pure, whatever
is pleasing, whatever is
commendable, if there is any
excellence and if there is anything
worthy of praise, think about these
things. ⁹Keep on doing the things
that you have learned and received
and heard and seen in me, and the
God of peace will be with you.

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.

I am the light of the world, says the Lord.

Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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.

Matthew 22: 1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them.

⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy.

⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’

¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹‘But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

Sermon

Let us stand to declare our faith in
God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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.

Please be seated

Prayers of Intercession

Let us offer our prayers to God for
the life of the world
and for all God's people in their
daily life and work.

God, the beginning and end of all
things,

in your providence and care
you watch unceasingly over all
creation;

we offer our prayers
that in us and in all your people
your will may be done,
according to your wise and loving
purpose in Christ our Lord.

Lord of all life:

hear our prayer.

We pray for all through whom we
receive sustenance and life;

for farmers and agricultural
workers,

for packers, distributors and
company boards;

as you have so ordered our life
that we depend upon each
other,

enable us by your grace to seek
the well-being of others before
our own.

Lord of all creation:

hear our prayer

We pray for all engaged in research
to safeguard crops against
disease,

and to produce abundant life
among those who hunger
and whose lives are at risk.

Prosper the work of their hands
and the searching of their minds,
that their labour may be for the
welfare of all.

Lord of all wisdom:

hear our prayer.

We pray for governments and aid
agencies,
and those areas of the world
where there is disaster, drought
and starvation.

By the grace of your Spirit,
touch our hearts
and the hearts of all who live in
comfortable plenty,
and make us wise stewards of your
gifts.

Lord of all justice:

hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are ill,
remembering those in hospital and
nursing homes
and all who are known to us.

We pray for all who care for them.
Give skill and understanding
to all who work for their well-
being.

Lord of all compassion:

hear our prayer.

We remember those who have died,
whom we entrust to your eternal
love
in the hope of resurrection to new
life.

Lord of all peace:

hear our prayer.

We offer ourselves to your
service,
asking that by the Spirit at work in
us

others may receive a rich harvest
of love and joy and peace.

Lord of all faithfulness:

hear our prayer.

God of grace,
as you are ever at work in your
creation,
so fulfil your wise and loving
purpose in us
and in all for whom we pray,
that with them and in all that you
have made,
your glory may be revealed
and the whole earth give praise to
you,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

After the final prayer we say:

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers for the
sake of your Son, our**

Saviour,

Jesus Christ.

Amen.

¶ **The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

Please stand

The Peace

*The President introduces the Peace
with these or other suitable words*

May the God of peace make you
perfect and holy, that you may be
kept safe and blameless in spirit,
soul and body,
for the coming of our Lord Jesus
Christ.

cf 1 Thessalonians 5.23

and then says

The peace of the Lord be
always with you

and also with you.

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

♪ **Hymn 283** ♪

*During which we lay our harvest gifts
in front of the altar*

Fill your hearts with joy and
gladness,
sing and praise your God and
mine!

Great the Lord in love and wisdom,
might and majesty divine!

He who framed the starry heavens
knows and names them as they
shine.

Fill your hearts with joy and
gladness,
sing and praise your God and
mine!

Praise the Lord, his people, praise him!
Wounded souls His comfort know;
those who fear Him find His mercies,
peace for pain and joy for woe;
humble hearts are high exalted,
human pride and power laid low.
Praise the Lord, His people, praise Him!
wounded souls His comfort know;
Praise the Lord for times and seasons,
cloud and sunshine, wind and rain;
spring to melt the snows of winter
till the waters flow again;
grass upon the mountain pastures,
golden valleys thick with grain.
Praise the Lord for times and seasons,
cloud and sunshine, wind and rain.
Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,
peace and plenty crown your days!
Love His laws, declare His judgements,
walk in all His words and ways;
He the Lord and we His children:
praise the Lord, all people, praise!
Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,
peace and plenty crown your days!

Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926) © Timothy Dudley-Smith

**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.**

Blessing of the Harvest Gifts

The Eucharistic Prayer (F)

The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.

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.

You are worthy of our thanks and praise, Lord God of truth,
for by the breath of your mouth
you have spoken your word,
and all things have come into being.

You fashioned us in your image and placed us in the garden of your delight.

Though we chose the path of rebellion
you would not abandon your own.

Again and again you drew us into
your covenant of grace.
You gave your people the law and
taught us by your prophets to look
for your reign of justice, mercy and
peace.

As we watch for the signs of your
kingdom on earth, we echo the
song of the angels in heaven,
evermore 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 God, you are the most holy
one,
enthroned in splendour and light,
yet in the coming of your Son Jesus
Christ you reveal the power of
your love made perfect in our
human weakness.

Amen. Lord, we believe.

Embracing our humanity,
Jesus showed us the way of
salvation;
loving us to the end,
he gave himself to death for us;
dying for his own,
he set us free from the bonds of
sin,
that we might rise and reign with
him
in glory.

Amen. Lord, we believe.

On the night he gave up himself for
us all he 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.

Amen. Lord, we believe.

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.

Amen. Lord, we believe.

Therefore we proclaim the death
that he suffered on the cross,
we celebrate his resurrection,
his bursting from the tomb,
we rejoice that he reigns at your
right hand on high and we long for
his coming in glory.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

As we recall the one, perfect
sacrifice of our redemption, Father,
by your Holy Spirit let these gifts
of your creation be to us the body
and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

form us into the likeness of Christ and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Look with favour on your people and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts.

Bless the earth,
heal the sick,
let the oppressed go free
and fill your Church with power from on high.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Gather your people from the ends of the earth to feast with St Matthew and all your saints at the table in your kingdom, where the new creation is brought to perfection
in 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

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**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

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.**

Agnus Dei

**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.**

Invitation to 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 Jesus died for you, and lives in you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies.

We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy.

Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen.

Communicant members of any Christian Church are invited to receive Holy

Communion. If you wish to receive a blessing please bow your head.

♪ 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.

Holy and blessed God, you have fed us with the body and blood of your Son and filled us with your Holy Spirit: may we honour you, not only with our lips but in lives dedicated to the service of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**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.**

¶ Dismissal

Notices

♪ Hymn 739 ♪

Now thank we all our God,
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven,
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore,
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

M. Rinkart (1586 – 1649)

Tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827 – 78)

The Blessing

*The President uses this or another
suitable blessing*

The peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our
Lord;
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.

Tend the earth,
care for God's good creation,
and bring forth the fruits of
righteousness.

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

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