

Advent 1

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.

Hymn

The Gathering

The President greets the people

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors, and the king of glory shall come in.
Psalm 24.7

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.**

Advent Ring

The Advent Candle will be lit at this point in the service.

Advent Sunday: the candle for the whole people of God, the candle of Hope

Prayer: God of Abraham and Sarah, and all the patriarchs of old, you are our Father too. Your love is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of David. Help us in preparing to celebrate his birth to make our hearts ready for your Holy Spirit to make his home among us. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world.

Lord Jesus, light of the world, born in David's city of Bethlehem, born like him to be a King: Be born in our hearts this Christmas, be king of our lives today. Amen

Prayers of Penitence

The prayers are introduced with these or other seasonal words:

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.

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.

The president declares God's forgiveness.

The Collect

A period of silent prayer is held, then the President prays the Collect of the Day. At the end all respond, **Amen**

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

At the end the reader says
This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Hymn/Song

Our children leave for Young Church after the first reading.

Second Reading

At the end the reader says
This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

The Gospel Reading

The Gospel Acclamation is sung by the choir

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

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.

The Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

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

This or another response is used

We pray for the coming of God's kingdom, saying: Father, by your Spirit bring in your kingdom.

The prayers conclude with

Lord of the Church
hear our prayer,
and make us one in heart and mind to serve you with joy for ever. Amen.

Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you
Let us offer one another a sign of peace

Hymn

The Preparation of the Table
Taking of the Bread and Wine

Blessed be God,
who feeds the hungry,
who raises the poor,
who fills our praise.
Blessed be God for ever.

The Eucharistic Prayer

(from the First Sunday of Advent until 8th December)

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 when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh,
he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world
to open for us the way of salvation.
Confident that your promise will be fulfilled, we now watch for the day when Christ our Lord will come again in glory.

And so we join our voices with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven
to proclaim your glory
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.]

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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:
Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, 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 St Matthew 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.

As the children return from Young Church we sing:

Chant

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom in the words our Saviour 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

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Agnus Dei

**Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,
give us your 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

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

Hymn

Prayers after Communion

The President may say Post Communion Prayer

Generous God,
you have fed us at your heavenly table. Set us on fire with your Spirit
that when Christ comes again we may shine like lights before his face; who with you and the Spirit lives for ever.
Amen.

Notices

Hymn

The Dismissal

Our Lord says, I am coming soon.
Amen. Come Lord Jesus.
May the Lord, when he comes, find us watching and waiting.
Amen.

The president may use this seasonal blessing

May God himself, the God of peace, make you perfect and holy;
and keep you all safe and blameless, in spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
And the blessing ...
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Ministers and people depart

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