Christ the King

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.

¶ Welcome and Introduction

♫ Hymn (227) ♫

Crown Him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon His throne;
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing
of Him who died for thee,
and hail Him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife
for those He came to save.
His glories now we sing,
who died, and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of love;
behold His hands and side,
those wounds yet visible above,
in beauty glorified:
no angel in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends his burning eye
at mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of years,
the Potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime:
all hail, Redeemer, hail!
for Thou hast died for me;
Thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.

Matthew Bridges (1800-1894)

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

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.

The Confession and Absolution

Invitation to confession

Christ calls us to share the heavenly banquet of his love with all the saints in earth and heaven.

Knowing our unworthiness and sin,
let us ask from him both mercy and forgiveness.

The kingdom is yours,
but we turn away from your just rule:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

The power is yours,
but we trust in our own power and strength:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

The glory is yours,
but we fall short of the glory of God:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

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

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

A period of silent prayer

Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;
for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory.
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.

First Reading

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

♫ Hymn (704) ♫

Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
"My God and King!"
The heav'ns are not too high,
his praise may thither fly;
the earth is not too low,
his praises there may grow.
Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
"My God and King!"

Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
"My God and King!"
The church with psalms must shout:
no door can keep them out.
But, more than all, the heart
must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing,
"My God and King!"

George Herbert (1593 - 1633)

Please be seated. The children leave for Young Church.

Second Reading

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
You, Christ, are the King of glory,
the eternal Son of the Father.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Nicene 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.**

Prayers of Intercession

Let us with confidence present our prayers and supplications to the throne of grace.

We pray for all those in positions of power, that they may govern with wisdom and integrity,
serving the needs of their people.
May your reign come;
Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for the Church, the sign of your reign, that it may extend your welcome to people of every
race and background.
May your kingdom come;
Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for Christians of every denomination, that together we may come to understand the royal priesthood you bestowed on us
in baptism.
May your dominion come;
Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for those whose commitment to truth brings them into conflict with earthly powers, that they may have the courage to endure.
May your rule come;
Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for this community of faith, that attentive to your word we may always worship in spirit and in truth.
May your reign come;
Lord, hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Loving God, you have taught us that the power of the heart is greater than the power of wealth and might.
Hear us as we pray for the fulfilment of your reign. We ask this through Jesus Christ our King; to him be glory and power for ever.
Amen.

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

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. *cf Colossians 3.14*

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

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

♫ Hymn (700) ♫

King of kings, Majesty
God of Heaven living in me
Gentle Saviour, closest friend
Strong Deliverer, beginning and end
All within me falls at Your throne

Your Majesty, I can but bow
I lay my all before You now
In royal robes I don't deserve
I live to serve Your Majesty

Earth and Heaven worship You
Love eternal, Faithful and True
Who bought the nations, ransomed souls
Brought this sinner near to Your throne
All within me cries out in praise.

Jarrod Cooper (1996)

Blessed be God,
who enthrones us with Christ in the heavenly realms.
May we feed upon the bread of God and drink the royal wine of heaven.
Blessed be God for ever.

The Eucharistic Prayer (E)

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father,
almighty and eternal God.
For with the oil of gladness you have anointed Christ the Lord, your only Son, to be our great high priest and king of all creation.

As priest, he offered himself once for all upon the altar of the cross
and redeemed the human race by this perfect sacrifice of peace.
As king he claims dominion over all your creatures,
that he may bring before your infinite majesty a kingdom of truth and life,
a kingdom of holiness and grace,
a kingdom of justice, love and peace.

And so with angels and archangels and all the heavenly host,
we proclaim your glory and join in their unending hymn of 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 praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of
your dear Son.

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

When supper was ended he took
the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus
did, in him we plead with confidence his
sacrifice made once for all
upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life
and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all
the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with St Matthew and all
the saints to feast
at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours,
O loving Father,
for ever and ever. Amen.

As the children return from Young Church, we sing

♫ Chant (CAHON 937) ♫

Nothing can trouble, nothing can
frighten,
Those who seek God shall never go
wanting.
Nothing can trouble, nothing can
frighten,
God alone fills us.

Taizé Community © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé

The Lord's Prayer

Uniting our prayers with the whole company of heaven,
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

**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.**

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.**

Anthem

♫ Hymn (448) ♫

I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall,
in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends.

The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known:
alive among us here.

Together met, together bound,
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one.

Brian Wren (b.1936) © 1971, 1995, Stainer & Bell Ltd

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

Stir up, O Lord,
the wills of your faithful people;
that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works,
may by you be plenteously rewarded;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and
brought us home.
Dying and living,
he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the
gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's
body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring
life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give
light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you
have set before us,
so we and all your children
shall be free,
and the whole earth live to
praise your name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Notices

♫ Hymn (612) ♫

Christ triumphant, ever reigning,
Saviour, Master, King!
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,
hear us as we sing:

Yours the glory and the crown,
the high renown, the eternal name.

Word incarnate, truth revealing,
Son of Man on earth!
Power and majesty concealing
by Your humble birth:

Suffering servant, scorned, ill-treated,
victim crucified!
Death is through the cross defeated,
sinners justified:

Priestly King, enthroned for ever
high in heaven above!
Sin and death and hell shall never
stifle hymns of love:

So, our hearts and voices raising
through the ages long,
ceaselessly upon You gazing,
this shall be our song:

Michael Saward (1932-2015) © Michael Saward/ Jubilate Hymns

¶ Dismissal

The Blessing

God the Father,
who has given to his Son the name above every name,
strengthen you to proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord.
Amen.

God the Son,
who is our great high priest passed into the heavens, plead for you at the right hand of the Father.
Amen.

God the Holy Spirit,
who pours out his abundant gifts upon the Church, make you faithful servants of Christ our King.
Amen.

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.

Lift up your heads, O gates;
be lifted up, you everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.

‘Who is the King of glory?’
‘The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord who is mighty in battle.’

Lift up your heads, O gates;
be lifted up, you everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall
come in.

‘Who is this King of glory?’
‘The Lord of hosts,
he is the King of glory.’

May we remain in the peace of Christ our King. **Thanks be to God.**

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