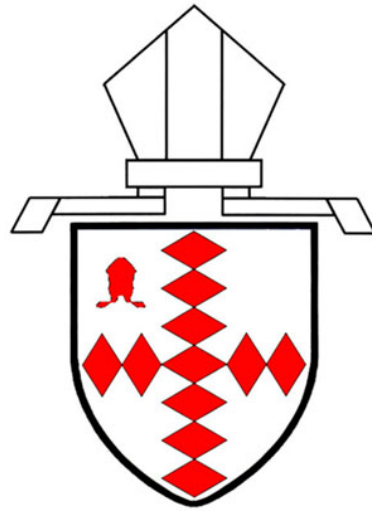


*Croydon Episcopal Area, Diocese of Southwark*



**Croydon Episcopal Area Racial Justice Group  
Black History Month  
Service of Thanksgiving**

**26th October  
5pm**

**St Matthew's Croydon**

# The Gathering

## Processional Hymn (365)

Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

*Refrain:*

*All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*

Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true.  
Where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus;

*Refrain*

Let us build a house where love is found  
in water, wine and wheat;  
a banquet hall on holy ground,  
where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
is revealed in time and space,  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us;

*Refrain*

Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone,  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
bears the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger:

*Refrain*

Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace.  
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

### *Refrain*

*Marty Haugen c 1994 by GIA Publications, Inc. www.giamusic.com  
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In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **The Greeting**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

## **Prayers of Penitence**

God's whole creation groans.

The land produces thorns and thistles and longs to be set free. Our sin  
affects all around us.

We confess our sins in penitence and faith.

**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.**

## **The Gloria**

*The Gloria may be said or 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: Prayer for Today**

Compassionate God,  
who sent Jesus Christ  
to deliver us from all manner of injustices and inequalities,  
create in us new hearts and enlarged visions,  
to see the image of God in every person  
irrespective of background, race and ethnicity.  
May we be generous in our love of others  
as we work towards ending misunderstanding, racism and injustice;  
creating communities of human flourishing,  
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.**

*Silence is kept.*

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

### **Readings**

*Please be seated*

*A reading from Psalm 122*

I was glad when they said to me,  
‘Let us go to the house of the Lord!’  
<sup>2</sup>Our feet are standing  
within your gates, O Jerusalem.  
<sup>3</sup>Jerusalem—built as a city  
that is bound firmly together.  
<sup>4</sup>To it the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the Lord,  
as was decreed for Israel,  
to give thanks to the name of the Lord.  
<sup>5</sup>For there the thrones for judgement were set up,  
the thrones of the house of David.  
<sup>6</sup>Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:  
‘May they prosper who love you.  
<sup>7</sup>Peace be within your walls,  
and security within your towers.’  
<sup>8</sup>For the sake of my relatives and friends  
I will say, ‘Peace be within you.’  
<sup>9</sup>For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,  
I will seek your good.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*A reading from the Letter to the Ephesians 4: 7-16*

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift.

<sup>8</sup>Therefore it is said,

'When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive;  
he gave gifts to his people.'

<sup>9</sup>(When it says, 'He ascended', what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? <sup>10</sup>He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) <sup>11</sup>The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup>until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. <sup>14</sup>We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. <sup>15</sup>But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup>from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Hymn**

We Have a Dream (*Tune: Woodlands*)

We have a dream: this nation will arise,  
and truly live according to its creed,  
that all are equal in their makers eyes,  
and none shall suffer through another's greed

We have a dream; our children shall be free  
from judgements based on colour or on race;  
free to become whatever they may be,  
of their own choosing in the light of grace.

We have a dream that truth will overcome  
the fear and anger of our present day;  
that black and white will share a common home,  
and hand in hand will walk the pilgrim way.

*Text: Michael Forster, b. 1946, © 1997, Kevin Mayhew, Ltd.*

*Tune: George W. Warren, 1828-1902*

## **The Gospel Reading**

*Please stand for the Gospel.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *Luke*.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another. 'If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me before it hated you. At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree

<sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" <sup>8</sup>He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."

*Luke 13: 1-9*

*At the end of the Gospel reading, the reader says:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you O Christ.**

## **The Sermon**

*After the sermon a short period of silent reflection is kept before we stand to declare our faith.*

## **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.**



## **Prayers of Intercession**

*Please sit or kneel for prayers*

## **The Liturgy of the Sacrament The Peace**

*Please stand*

We are the body of Christ.  
In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.  
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace  
and builds up our common life.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## **Offertory Hymn**

Down by the Riverside sung by the Edwards' Singers

## **The Offertory Prayers**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation  
Through your goodness we have this bread to offer  
which earth has given and human hands have made  
it will become for us the bread of life.

**Blessed be God forever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.  
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer  
Fruit of the vine and the work of human hands  
It will become for us the cup of salvation.

**Blessed be God forever.**

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For though the human race  
is divided by dissension and discord,  
Christ calls us in his death and resurrection  
To embody hearts of change  
and his work of reconciliation.

By your Spirit you gave courage to overcome fears  
and to seek the unity of all.

By the working of your power,  
hatred is overcome by love,  
revenge give way to forgiveness,  
and division is transformed by mutual respect and humility.

Therefore, we give you ceaseless thanks,  
and join with choirs of angels  
and with all the heavenly host,  
to proclaim your glory  
in their unending song 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.**

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.

Great is the mystery of Faith.

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

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  
Mary the Mother of God, 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**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and 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.**

### **The 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.**

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.**

### **Communion**

*All baptised Christians are welcome to receive communion. If you would prefer a blessing, please cross your hands over your shoulders.*

### **Archbishop Tenison's Choir**

## **Prayer after Communion**

*We stand when the president says:*

*'Let us pray'*

Almighty God,  
who on the day of Pentecost  
sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles  
with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame,  
filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel:  
by the power of the same Spirit  
strengthen us to witness to your truth  
and to draw everyone to the fire of your love;  
through 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.**

**Notices**

## **Final Hymn**

Be not dismayed whate'er betide,  
God will take care of you;  
Beneath his wings of love abide,  
God will take care of you.

*Refrain:*

*God will take care of you,  
through ev'ry day, o'er all the way;  
He will take care of you,  
God will take care of you.*

Through days of toil when heart doth fail,  
God will take care of you;  
When dangers fierce your path assail,  
God will take care of you.

*Refrain:*

No matter what may be the test,  
God will take care of you;  
Lean, weary one, upon his breast,  
God will take care of you.

*Refrain:*

*Civilla D. Martin (1904) © Public Domain*

## **The Blessing and Sending Out**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The love of the Lord Jesus  
draw you to himself  
the power of the Lord Jesus  
strengthen you in his service,  
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;  
and the blessing of God Almighty

✠ The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## **Archbishop Tenison's Choir**

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