



St Matthew Croydon
Pet Blessing Service

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.

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 (533)

*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful:
the Lord God made them all.*

Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colours,
He made their tiny wings.

The purple headed mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset and the morning
that brightens up the sky.

The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden,
He made them every one.

He gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty,
who has made all things well.

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)

The president may say

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All 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

This prayer may be said

**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.**

Confession

Jesus said, Before you offer your gift, go and be reconciled. As brothers and sisters in God's family we come together to ask our Father for forgiveness.

**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.**

Absolution

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

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

God, the giver of life,
whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church:
by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of
Christ
and make us eager to do your will,
that we may share with the whole creation
the joys of eternal life;
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

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

Amos 5: 6-7, 10-15

Seek the Lord and live,
or he will break out against the house of Joseph like
fire,
and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it.

⁷Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood,
and bring righteousness to the ground!
¹⁰They hate the one who reproves in the gate,
and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.
¹¹Therefore, because you trample on the poor
and take from them levies of grain,
you have built houses of hewn stone,
but you shall not live in them;
you have planted pleasant vineyards,
but you shall not drink their wine.
¹²For I know how many are your transgressions,
and how great are your sins—
you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,
and push aside the needy in the gate.
¹³Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time;
for it is an evil time.
¹⁴Seek good and not evil,
that you may live;
and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you,
just as you have said.
¹⁵Hate evil and love good,
and establish justice in the gate;
it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts,
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

At the end of which, the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn (725)

Make me a channel of Your peace.
Where there is hatred,
let me bring Your love.
Where there is injury,
Your pardon Lord;
and where there's doubt,
true faith in You.

*O Master, grant that I may never seek,
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood, as to understand,
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of Your peace.
Where there's despair in life
let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness,
let me bring Your light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.

Make me a channel of Your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving of ourselves that we receive,
and in dying that we're born
to eternal life.

*Sebastian Temple (1928-1997) based on the prayer
of St Francis of Assisi © 1967 OCP Publications*

Second Reading

Hebrews 4: 12-end

The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

¹⁴Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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

An acclamation may be sung

The Lord be with you

and also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark 10: 17-31

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' ¹⁸Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother.'" ²⁰He said to him, 'Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.' ²¹Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' ²²When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

²³Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, 'How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!' ²⁴And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, 'Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.' ²⁶They were greatly astounded and said to one another, 'Then who can be saved?' ²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.'

²⁸Peter began to say to him, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you.' ²⁹Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake

and for the sake of the good news,³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.’

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

This, or another response, may be used:

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.

Pet Blessing

Look upon our animals, O God which share our homes and our lives, and which inspire us with their love and loyalty.

Bless them for the pleasure and companionship they give us

And for the work they do to help humankind.

Protect all those who suffer neglect and cruelty we pray and bring them the help they need through Christ our Lord.

Amen

**We commit ourselves to care for the world
God has given us; to care for all creatures, to
cherish and provide for the pets and animals
in our care and to protect any animal we find
in distress.**

Heavenly God, giver of all life,
Fill our hearts with generosity and love
That we may fulfil what we have promised;
Bless O Lord, these creatures
And all who are involved in their care and protection.
May our awareness of their needs
Make us sensitive to the needs of every creature,
For we ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen 

¶ ***The Liturgy of the Sacrament***

The Peace

God is love and those who live in love live in God and
God lives in them.

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.

Hymn

Bless the Lord

*O my soul, O my soul,
worship His holy name.*

*Sing like never before,
O my soul,
I'll worship Your holy name.*

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning.

It's time to sing Your song again.

Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me,
let me be singing when the evening comes.

You're rich in love
and You're slow to anger,

Your name is great,
and Your heart is kind.

For all Your goodness,
I will keep on singing,
10,000 reasons for my heart to find.

And on that day
when my strength is failing,
the end draws near
and my time has come.

Still my soul will
sing Your praise unending:
ten thousand years,
and then forevermore.

Matt Redman © 2011 Thankyou Music

**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.**

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.

Question Why is it right to give thanks and praise?

Answer Listen, and we will hear.

Lord of all life,
you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your glory.
You give us this great and beautiful earth,
to discover and to cherish.

You give us happy times
and things to celebrate.
In these we taste your kingdom,
a feast for all your children.

You made us all,
each wonderfully different,
to join with the angels
and 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.**

We thank you, loving Father,
because, when we turned away,
you sent Jesus, your Son.
He gave his life for us on the cross
and shows us the way to live.
Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

Question Why do we share this bread and wine?

Answer **Listen, and we will hear.**

On the night before he died,
when darkness had fallen,
Jesus took bread.
He gave thanks, broke it,
and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my body, given for you.'

Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.

As you feed us with these gifts,
send your Holy Spirit,
and change us more and more
to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Question How do we follow Jesus Christ?

Answer **Listen, and we will hear.**

Help us, Father, to love one another,
as we look forward to that day
when suffering is ended,
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.
And now with St Matthew, St Francis and all your saints
we give you glory,
through Jesus Christ,
in the strength of the Spirit,
today and for ever.

Amen.

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.**

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.**

**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.**

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.**

*The president and people receive communion.
Authorized words of distribution are used and the
communicant replies **Amen.***

Hymn (537)

For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:

*Lord of all, to Thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*

For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon and stars of light:

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
pleasures pure and undefiled:

For each perfect gift of Thine,
to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven:

For Thy church which evermore
lifteth holy hands above,
offering up on every shore
her pure sacrifice of love:

Folliott Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917)

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

Lord God, the source of truth and love,
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**We thank you Lord that you have fed us in
this sacrament
United us with Christ,
And given us a foretaste of the heavenly
banquet
Prepared for all peoples.**

¶ *The Dismissal*

Notices

Hymn (532)

All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam:
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise Him! Alleluia!

Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice;
ye lights of evening, find a voice:
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou fire so masterful and bright,
that givest us both warmth and light:
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfoldest blessings on our way,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
let them His glory also show:
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship Him in humbleness;
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One:
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

W.H. Draper (1855-1933)

The president may use this or another blessing

The Lord bless you and watch over you

The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you

The Lord look kindly on you and give you peace
And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you and all those you love, pray, care for and remember this day and 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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