

# **St Matthew's Church**

Chichester Road, Croydon



## **Service of Thanksgiving to Commemorate the Faithful Departed**

## Welcome and Introduction

We meet in the name of Jesus Christ, who died for our sins and was raised to life for our justification:

Grace mercy and peace be with you all  
**and also with you.**

Forsake me not, O Lord;  
be not far from me, O my God.  
Make haste to help me,  
O Lord of my salvation.

You are worthy, our Lord and God,  
to receive glory and honour and power.  
**For you have created all things,  
and by your will they have  
their being.**

You are worthy, O Lamb, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and nation.

**You have made them to be a  
kingdom and priests serving  
our God, and they will reign  
with  
you on earth.**

## Hymn (621)

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
forgive our foolish ways;  
re-clothe us in our rightful mind,  
in purer lives Thy service find,  
in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
beside the Syrian sea,  
the gracious calling of the Lord,  
let us, like them, without a word,  
rise up and follow Thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee,  
O calm of hills above,  
where Jesus knelt to share with Thee  
the silence of eternity,  
interpreted by love!

Drop Thy still dews of quietness,  
till all our strivings cease;  
take from our souls the strain and  
stress,  
and let our ordered lives confess  
the beauty of Thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire  
Thy coolness and Thy balm;  
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
speak through the earthquake, wind,  
and fire,  
O still small voice of calm.

*John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892)*

## Confession and Absolution

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit:  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

You bring pardon and peace to the  
broken in heart:  
Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

You make one by your Spirit the torn  
and divided:  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on  
you,  
forgive you your sins,  
and bring you to everlasting life.

**Amen.**

## **First Reading**

*Psalm 23*

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not  
want.

<sup>2</sup>He makes me lie down in green  
pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;

<sup>3</sup>he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>Even though I walk through the  
darkest valley,  
I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff—  
they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow  
me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the  
Lord  
my whole life long.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Hymn (10)**

Abide with me; fast falls the eventide:  
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me  
abide:

when other helpers fail, and comforts  
flee,  
help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little  
day;  
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass  
away;  
change and decay in all around I see;  
O thou who changest not, abide with  
me.

I need thy presence every passing hour;  
what but thy grace can foil the  
tempter's power?

Who like thyself my guide and stay can  
be?

Through cloud and sunshine, O abide  
with me.

I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;  
ills have no weight, and tears no  
bitterness.

Where is death's sting? Where, grave,  
thy victory?

I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing  
eyes;  
shine through the gloom, and point me  
to the skies:

heaven's morning breaks, and earth's  
vain shadows flee;

in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

*Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)*

## Second Reading

*John 14:1-6*

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Address

*The address is followed by a few moments of silence for reflection.*

## Commemoration

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power.

**For you have created all things, and by your will they have their being.**

You are worthy, O Lamb, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed for God saints from every tribe and language and nation.

**You have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God, and they will reign with you on earth.**

*We quietly sing the Taizé chants:*

Within our darkest night,  
you kindle the fire that never dies away,  
that never dies away. *(Repeat)*

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

*The list of names of those who have died are read out and candles are lit.*

## Choir Anthem

### Prayer of Commemoration

**Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with the saints: where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

You only are immortal, the creator and maker of all: and we are mortal, formed from the dust of the earth, and unto earth shall we return.

For so you ordained when you created me, saying: ‘Dust you are and to dust you shall return.’ All of us go down to the dust, yet weeping at the grave, we make our song:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with the saints: where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.**

Hear us, O merciful Father, as we remember in love those whom we have placed in your hands.

Acknowledge, we pray, the sheep of your own fold, lambs of your own flock, sinners of your own redeeming.

Enfold them in the arms of your mercy, in the blessed rest of everlasting peace, and in the glorious company of the saints in light. **Amen.**

## Hymn (24)

The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended,  
the darkness falls at Thy behest;  
to Thee our morning hymns ascended,  
Thy praise shall sanctify our rest.

We thank thee that Thy Church,  
    unsleeping,  
while earth rolls onward into light,  
through all the world her watch is  
    keeping,  
and rests not now by day or night.

As o'er each continent and island  
the dawn leads on another day,  
the voice of prayer is never silent,  
nor dies the strain of praise away.

The sun that bids us rest is waking  
our brethren 'neath the western sky,  
and hour by hour fresh lips are  
    making

Thy wondrous doings heard on high.

So be it, Lord: Thy throne shall never,  
like earth's proud empires, pass away;  
Thy kingdom stands, and grows for  
    ever,

till all thy creatures own Thy sway.

*John Ellerton (1826–1893)*

## Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray to the Lord, who has conquered death.

Jesus, bread from heaven, you satisfy the hungry with good things: grant us a share with all the faithful departed in the banquet of your kingdom.

Hear us, risen Lord,  
**our resurrection and our life.**

Jesus, the light of the world,  
you gave the man born blind the gift of sight:

open the eye of faith and bring us from darkness to your eternal light and glory.

Hear us, risen Lord,  
**our resurrection and our life.**

Jesus, Son of the living God,  
you summoned your friend Lazarus from death to life:  
raise us at the last to full and eternal life with you.

Hear us, risen Lord,  
**our resurrection and our life.**

Jesus, crucified Saviour,  
in your dying you entrusted each to the other,

Mary your mother and John your beloved disciple:  
sustain and comfort all who mourn.

Hear us, risen Lord,  
**our resurrection and our life.**

Jesus, our way and truth and life,  
you drew your disciple Thomas from doubt to faith:

reveal the resurrection faith to the doubting and the lost.

Hear us, risen Lord,  
**our resurrection and our life.**

May God in his infinite love and mercy bring the whole Church, living and departed in the Lord Jesus, to a joyful resurrection and the fulfilment of his eternal kingdom.

**Amen.**

### **The Collect**

Everlasting God, our maker and redeemer, grant us, with all the faithful departed, the sure benefits of your Son's saving passion and glorious resurrection that, in the last day, when you gather up all things in Christ, we may with them enjoy the fullness of your promises; 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 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, 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.**

### **A Prayer of Dedication**

**Gracious Father, in darkness  
and in light, in trouble and in  
joy, help us to trust your saving  
love, to serve your purpose,  
and to honour your name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

### **Hymn (766)**

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,  
to His feet thy tribute bring;  
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
who like me His praise should sing?  
Praise Him praise Him,  
praise Him praise Him,  
praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favour  
to our fathers in distress;  
praise Him still the same for ever,  
slow to chide, and swift to bless:  
Praise Him praise Him,  
praise Him praise Him,  
glorious in His faithfulness.

Father-like, He tends and spares us,  
well our feeble frame He knows;  
in His hands He gently bears us,  
rescues us from all our foes:  
Praise Him praise Him,  
praise Him praise Him,  
widely as His mercy flows.

Frail as summer's flower we flourish;  
blows the wind and it is gone;  
but, while mortals rise and perish,  
God endures unchanging on:

Praise Him praise Him,  
praise Him praise Him,  
praise the high eternal One.

Angels, help us to adore Him;  
ye behold Him face to face;  
sun and moon, bow down before Him,  
dwellers all in time and space:  
Praise Him praise Him,  
praise Him praise Him,  
praise with us the God of grace.

*Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847), based on Psalm  
103*

## **Blessing**

May God give you  
his comfort and his peace,  
his light and his joy,  
in this world and the next;  
and the blessing ...

*Please take this leaflet home with you.*

*A prayer that you may find helpful to  
use at home:*

Lord God you listen to the cry of  
our hearts. Help us to find in your  
Son Jesus Christ, comfort in our  
sadness, certainty in our doubt and  
courage to live by faith in your  
love. In Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

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