



Advent 3

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.



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 3: the candle for John the Baptist, the candle of Love.

Prayer: God our Father, you gave to Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age a son called John. He grew up strong in spirit, prepared the people for the coming of the Lord, and baptised them in the Jordan to wash away their sins. Help us, who have been baptised into Christ, to be ready to welcome him into our hearts, and to grow strong in faith by the power of the Spirit. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the light who is coming into the world.

Lord Jesus, light of the world, John told the people to prepare, for you were very near. As Christmas grows closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome you now. 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 15th December until Christmas Eve)

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. He is the one foretold by all the prophets, whom the Virgin Mother bore with love beyond all telling. John the Baptist was his herald and made him known when at last he came.

In his love Christ fills us with joy as we prepare to celebrate his birth, so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer, our hearts filled with wonder and praise.

And so, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, 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.

Christ is the bread of life:
When we eat this bread and drink
this cup, we proclaim your death,
Lord Jesus,
until you come in glory.

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 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

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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