



## Christmastide and Epiphanytide

*(from Christmas Day to the eve of the Presentation)*

*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.*

*Please join in the words in **bold print**. Don’t forget to silence your mobile!*

## Entry Hymn

### **The Gathering**

Grace mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you;

**And also with you**

Do I not fill Heaven and Earth?  
Says the Lord;

**Now he is made flesh  
and laid in a narrow manger.**

From eternity to eternity you are  
God

**And now we see you as a new  
born child.**

### **Prayers of Penitence**

*From Christmas Day until the Eve of the Epiphany:*

Hear the words of the Angel to Joseph:

‘You shall call his name Jesus,

For he will save his people from their sins.’

Therefore, seek the forgiveness of  
God

Through Jesus the Saviour of the  
world.

*From the Epiphany until the Eve of the Presentation:*

The grace of God has dawned upon  
the world through our Saviour Jesus  
Christ

Who sacrificed himself for us  
To purify a people as his own,

Let us confess our sins...

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,  
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour, in what we have thought, in what we have said and done,  
through ignorance, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.**

**We have wounded your love and marred your image in us. We are sorry and ashamed 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 lead us out from darkness  
to walk as children of light.  
Amen.**

### **Absolution**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with heartfelt repentance and true faith turn to him: have mercy on *you*; pardon and deliver *you* from all *your* sins; confirm and strengthen *you* in all goodness; and bring *you* to everlasting life; 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**

*The President introduces a period of silent prayer with the words, let us pray  
At the end all respond, **Amen***

### **The Liturgy of the Word**

*Please sit for the **First Reading***

*At the end the reader says*

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

### **Song**

*The children may leave for Young Church;*

Please sit for the **Second Reading**

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## **The Gospel Reading**

*From Christmas Day until The Eve of the Epiphany:*

**Acclamation:**

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory.

**Alleluia.**

*From the Epiphany to the Eve of the Presentation:*

**Acclamation:**

Alleluia, alleluia.

We have seen his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.

**Alleluia.**

Reader: 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**

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you O Christ**

## **The Sermon**

*Please Stand to affirm our faith in the words of the*

## **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**

Lord in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer**

*At the end;*  
**Merciful father, accept these  
prayers for the sake of your  
Son, Jesus Christ. Amen**

### **Liturgy of the Sacrament**

*Please stand for* **The Peace**

*From Christmas day until the Eve of the  
Epiphany:*

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son  
is given, and his name shall be called  
the Prince of Peace...

*From the Epiphany until the Eve of the  
Presentation:*

Christ is our peace.  
If anyone is in Christ, there is a new  
creation. The old has passed away:  
behold, everything has become new.

*Followed by;*

The peace of the Lord be always with  
you

**And also with you**

Let us offer one another a sign of  
peace

### **The Preparation of the Table**

**And the Taking of the  
Bread and Wine**

### **Offertory Hymn**

### **Prayer of Preparation**

*From Christmas day until the Eve of the  
Epiphany:*

Word made flesh, life of the world, in  
your incarnation you embraced our  
poverty:  
by your Spirit may we share in your  
riches.

**Amen.**

*From the Epiphany to the Eve of the Presentation:*

Lord, accept your people's gifts,  
not gold, frankincense or myrrh,  
but hearts and voices raised in praise  
of Jesus Christ, our light and our  
salvation.

**Amen.**

## **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**

*From Christmas day until the Eve of the Epiphany:*

All glory and honour be yours always  
and everywhere, mighty creator, ever-  
living God. We give you thanks and  
praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus  
Christ, who for love of our fallen  
race humbled himself, and was born  
of the Virgin Mary by the power of  
your Spirit, and lived as one of us.  
In this mystery of the Word made  
flesh  
you have caused his light to shine in  
our hearts, to give knowledge of  
your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.  
In him we see our God made visible  
and so are caught up in the love of  
the God we cannot see.

Therefore with all the angels of  
heaven

we lift our voices to proclaim the  
glory of your name and sing our  
joyful hymn of praise:

*From the Epiphany to the Eve of the Presentation:*

All honour and praise be yours  
always and everywhere, mighty  
creator, ever-living God, through  
Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord:  
for at this time we celebrate your  
glory made present in our midst.  
In the coming of the magi the King of  
all the world was revealed to the  
nations.

In the waters of baptism Jesus was  
revealed as the Christ, the Saviour  
sent to redeem us. In the water  
made wine

the new creation was revealed at the  
wedding feast. Poverty was turned to  
riches, sorrow into joy.

Therefore with all the angels of  
heaven

we lift our voices to proclaim the  
glory of your name and sing our  
joyful 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.**

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 St 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.**

*As the children return from Young Church we sing:*

**Chant:**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**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**

Christ is the Bread which has come  
down from Heaven

**Give us this Bread for ever**

*This prayer may be said:*

**Most merciful Lord,  
your love compels us to come  
in.**

**Our hands were unclean, our  
hearts were unprepared; we  
were not fit even to eat the  
crumbs from under your  
table.**

**But you, Lord, are the God of  
our salvation, and share your  
bread with sinners. So cleanse  
and feed us  
with the precious body and  
blood of your Son, that he  
may live in us and we in him;**

**and that we, with the whole  
company of Christ, may sit  
and eat in your kingdom.  
Amen.**

*Communicant members of any Christian  
Church are invited to receive Holy  
Communion. Children and those who  
are not confirmed are welcome to come  
forward for a blessing. If you wish to  
receive a blessing please bow your head.*

## **Anthem**

## **Hymn**

## **Prayers after Communion**

*The President may say*

**a Post Communion Prayer**

**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.**

## **The Notices**

## **Final Hymn**

## **The Blessing**

*For Christmastide:*

May the Father, who has loved the eternal Son from before the foundation of the world, shed that love upon you his children. **Amen.**

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with joy and peace. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer, give you grace to carry the good news of Christ. **Amen.**

*For Epiphanytide:*

Christ our Lord, to whom kings bowed down in worship and offered gifts,  
reveal to you his glory and pour upon you the riches of his grace;

*followed by*

... And the Blessing of God Almighty, Father Son and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you, and those that you love, now and always.

**Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

**In the name of Christ, Amen**

## **Organ Voluntary**

*Ministers and people depart*

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