



St Matthew Croydon
Mothering Sunday Eucharist

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. If you don’t want to appear on video please look for the labelled seats.

No filming of any of our services is permitted.

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 (721)

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
all Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, Thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love Thou art;
visit us with Thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit
into every troubled breast;
let us all in Thee inherit,
let us find Thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning,
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all Thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve Thee as Thy hosts above;
pray, and praise Thee, without ceasing,
glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish then Thy new creation:
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see Thy great salvation
perfectly restored in Thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before Thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

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.**

Traditionally today is a time to celebrate our mother churches, those people and places which have nurtured our faith. But for many this time comes with painful associations with motherhood, feelings of inadequacy or loss. Yet in Christ, we are given peace, comfort and family. We have come together today to give thanks to God for all those people who have nurtured us, and to offer ourselves to nurture others, with God's help. We have also come to acknowledge the pain of a hurting world.

We come to receive again from the God of compassion and mercy.

You have all received a flower and pen - We ask you write a message of thanks or a prayer for your mother or carer and these will be collected in the hymn after the sermon and placed on the large card here at the front.

Prayer of Preparation

Loving, compassionate Father,
As a mother hen gathers her chicks,
so you draw the whole human family to yourself. Bring us together now, Lord,
that we may today and forever be united under your wing in all our sorrows and joys.

Amen

Lighting of candles

4 tea lights on front of altar

On this Mothering Sunday, we light candles in thanks for all mothers and carers.

Blessed be God for ever.

And on this Mothering Sunday, we light this candle for all mothers who have loved and laughed and laboured as they cared for their children.

Blessed be God for ever.

We light a candle for all mothers who have wept in sorrow and joy for their children.

Blessed be God for ever.

We light a candle in memory of all mothers and carers who are no longer with us.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Comfortable Words

Hear the words of comfort our Saviour Christ says to all who truly turn to him:

Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Silence for Reflection

Prayers of Penitence

Come let us return to the Lord and say:

Lord our God,

in our sin we have avoided your call. Our love for you is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early.

Have mercy on us;

deliver us from judgement;

bind up our wounds and revive us; in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The president says

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 Collect

God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
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

Exodus 2: 1-10

A man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman.²The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months.³When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river.⁴His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

⁵The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it.⁶When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said.⁷Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?'

⁸Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother.⁹Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it.

¹⁰When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

At the end of which, the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Song/Hymn (713)

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever childlike,
no cares could destroy,
be there at our waking,
and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord,
at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled
at the plane and the lathe,
be there at our labours,
and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord,
at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome,
Your arms to embrace,
be there at our homing,
and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord,
at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment,
whose presence is balm,
be there at our sleeping,
and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord,
at the end of the day.

Jan Struther (1901-1953) © Oxford University Press

Gospel Reading

Let us stand to greet the Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory

The Lord is a great God, O that today you would listen
to his voice. Harden not your hearts.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

John 19: 25-27

Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his
mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary
Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple
whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his
mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' ²⁷Then he said to the
disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the
disciple took her into his own home.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Creed

Let us stand to declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**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

Dear God, We thank you for mothers and carers everywhere, and for all they do to help us to grow up well. We thank you that they love us and show us how to learn to stand on our own two feet. We pray that mums will feel really special today; that they will know

how much we love them and how much you love them too. Most of all, we thank you, God, that you are our heavenly parent who loves us and helps us all to develop and make the very best of life.

Lord in your mercy

Hear Our prayer

Dear Jesus, we thank you for all mothers and carers around the world, and for all they do for their children. We pray for those who struggle to provide for their families in harsh conditions; for those where drought deprives them of the food and water they desperately need; for those where danger lurks in their locality, where drugs have devalued human life, where war has become the norm. May your compassion and care be brought to them and may your justice be brought to them.

Lord in your mercy

Hear Our prayer

Dear Jesus the gift of life is very precious; we pray for all women and men who have longed for such a gift but the joy of their own children has eluded them; may they find solace in the love of family and friends. We pray too for those who have adopted or fostered children, or are trying the marvels of medical science to enable them to have children of their own.

Lord in your mercy

Hear Our prayer

Dear Jesus, as a child you lived within a loving family, but as an adult your ministry took you into a wide range of communities, places where you were made welcome and places where you were not. We pray for the place of our church within our own community, we pray for guidance as we endeavour to reach out to all those who cross our threshold, but more importantly to those who don't.

In our community we pray for the residents of ...

Lord in your mercy

Hear Our prayer

Dear Jesus, you knew what it was to suffer, you also had the power to heal, so we bring to you now all those who suffer; those whose minds are disturbed; those whose bodies are in pain; those whose earthly lives are coming to an end. We pray that in their suffering they will know your presence with them and your healing power through the skills of the medical profession; the care of care providers, family and friends. In our parish we pray for ...

Lord in your mercy

Hear Our prayer

Dear God we thank you for giving us others to share in our lives; for parents, and the love which brought us to birth; for relatives and friends, who have who have shared our joys and sorrows; for colleagues who have worked alongside us; in a moment of silence we remember now those who we see no longer but who live in our hearts and your kingdom of love.

Lord in your mercy

Hear Our prayer

We give thanks for the loving example of Jesus, who was obedient even to death and strengthens us in all goodness.

Faithful God, in this week that leads us into Lent, may we reflect your love in the way we live our lives so the world can see that we are followers of Christ, and that by our words and actions we may draw others into your loving care.

Merciful Father, Accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son Our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

¶ ***The Liturgy of the Sacrament***

The Blessing of Flowers

O God, bless these flowers, bless us and bless our mother and carers. May the flowers remind us of how much our mothers and carers have done for us; may they

remind our mothers how much we love them; and may they remind us all that God cares for us all. **Amen**

The Peace

Blessed are the peacemakers: they shall be called children of God. We meet in the name of Christ and share his peace.

May 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 (678) (*during which the flowers are distributed and notes of thanks are collected*)

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest
drought and storm.

What heights of love,
what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled,
when strivings cease!

My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! — who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones He came to save:
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the love of God was magnified —
for every sin on Him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain:
then bursting forth in glorious day
up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am His and He is mine —
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from His hand;
till He returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

Stuart Townend (b.1963) & Keith Getty (b.1974)
© 2001 Thankyou Music

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.

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.

Almighty God, good Father to us all, your face is turned
towards your world.

In love you gave us Jesus your Son to rescue us from sin
and death.

Your Word goes out to call us home
to the city where angels sing your praise.

We join with them in heaven's song:

**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.**

Father of all, we give you thanks
for every gift that comes from heaven.
To the darkness Jesus came as your light.

With signs of faith and words of hope
he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty
clean.

This is his story.

**This is our song:
Hosanna in the highest**

The crowds came out to see your Son, yet at the end
they turned on him.
On the night he was betrayed he came to table with his
friends
to celebrate the freedom of your people.

This is his story.

**This is our song:
Hosanna in the highest.**

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food;
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said: This is my
body, given for you all.
Jesus then gave thanks for the wine; he took the cup, gave
it and said:
This is my blood, shed for you all for the forgiveness of
sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.

This is our story.

**This is our song:
Hosanna in the highest.**

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup we
celebrate the cross
on which he died to set us free.
Defying death he rose again
and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.

This is our story.

**This is our song:
Hosanna in the highest.**

Send your Spirit on us now
that by these gifts we may feed on Christ with opened
eyes and hearts on fire.

May we and all who share this food offer ourselves to
live for you

and be welcomed at your feast in heaven where all
creation worships you,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power be
yours for ever and ever.**

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we say

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

The president breaks the consecrated 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 may be sung

**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.**

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.
Authorised words of distribution are used and the
communicant replies: **Amen.***

During the distribution hymns and anthems may be sung.

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*

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

Loving God, as a mother feeds her children at the breast
you feed us in this sacrament
with the food and drink of eternal life: help us who have
tasted your goodness
to grow in grace within the household of faith; 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.**

¶ ***The Dismissal***

Notices

Hymn (656)

He's got the whole world in His hands, (X3)

He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got you and me, brother, in His hands, (X3)

He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got you and me, sister, in His hands, (X3)

He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got the tiny little baby in His hands, (X3)

He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got mothers everywhere in His hands, (X3)

He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got ev'rybody here in His hands. (X3)

He's got the whole world in His hands.

African-American traditional melody Arr: Paul Leddington Wright (1951)

May the love of the Father fill our hearts;

May the love of the Lord Jesus fill our homes;

And may the grace of the Holy Spirit

bind us together in love

in our families and communities.

And may the blessing of God be with you,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

A minister says

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

The ministers and people depart.

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