

St John the Divine Eucharist service

15th Sunday after Pentecost

10th September 2023



Welcome to our worship and community life at St John the Divine. You are encouraged to participate in whatever way best helps you connect with God, to know how much God loves you and cares about you. All are welcome to come forward to make your communion with God, receiving either the sacrament, or a blessing if you prefer.

You are invited to take this booklet away with you, to be able to refer to the notices in the back - and to reflect further on the Scripture readings.

All stand if able when the bell rings, for Processional entrance music.

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.



And also, with you

Lay reader announces Hymn.

Opening Hymn: TIS 477 - Jesus calls us here to meet him.

**1 Jesus calls us here to meet him as,
through word and song and prayer,
we affirm God's promised presence
where his people live and care.
Praise the God who keeps his promise,
praise the son who calls us friends;
praise the Spirit who, among us,
to our hopes and fears attends.**

**2 Jesus calls us to confess him
Word of Life and Lord of All,
sharer of our flesh and frailness
saving all who fail or fall.
Tell his holy human story;
tell his tales that all may hear;
tell the world that Christ in glory
came to earth to meet us here.**

**3 Jesus calls us to each other:
found in him are no divides.
Race and class and sex and
language
such are barriers he derides.
Join the hand of friend and
stranger;
join the hands of age and youth;
join the faithful and the doubter
in their common search for truth.**

Sentence: Lay reader says. Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. (Romans 13.8)

Lay reader says.

Let us pray.

**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.**

Lay reader says.

"Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." Jesus said: "This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself."

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

GLORIA AND COLLECT

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's 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.

Let us pray.

Go before us, O Lord,
and further us with your continual help,
that in all our works,
begun, continued, and ended in you,
we may glorify your holy name,
and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Said together.

**God of mission, Who alone brings growth to your Church,
Send your Holy Spirit to give
Vision to our planning,
Wisdom to our actions,
Joy to our worship, And power to our witness.
Help our church to grow in numbers, In spiritual commitment to you,
And in service to our local community,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A reading from Ezekiel 33.7-11

So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, 'O wicked ones, you shall surely die', and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: 'Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?' Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

May your word live in us,
and bear much fruit to your glory.

Psalm 119.33-40

Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I will observe it to the end.

**Give me understanding, that I may keep your law
and observe it with my whole heart.**

Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for I delight in it.

**Turn my heart to your decrees,
and not to selfish gain.**

Turn my eyes from looking at vanities;
give me life in your ways.

**Confirm to your servant your promise,
which is for those who fear you.**

Turn away the disgrace that I dread,
for your ordinances are good.

**See, I have longed for your precepts;
in your righteousness give me life.**

A reading from Romans 13.1-10

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists authority resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgement. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you wish to have no fear of the authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive its approval; for it is God's servant for your good. But if you do what is wrong, you should be afraid, for the authority does not bear the sword in vain! It is the servant of God to execute wrath on the wrongdoer.

Therefore one must be subject, not only because of wrath but also because of conscience. For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, busy with this very thing.

Pay to all what is due to them—taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honour to whom honour is due.

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

May your word live in us,
and bear much fruit to your glory.

Lay reader announces.

Gradual Hymn: TIS 650 - The Servant Song (brother, sister let me serve you)

1 Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

2 We are pilgrims on a journey
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

3 I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St. Matthew 18.10-20

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

'Take care that you do not despise one of these little ones; for, I tell you, in heaven their angels continually see the face of my Father in heaven. What do you think? If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost.

'If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord,

praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I will weep when you are
weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.

5 When we sing to God in heaven
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

6 Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

Please be seated for the Sermon.

NICENE CREED

Lay reader announces.

Let us stand and together affirm the faith of the Church:

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 of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lay reader announces.

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

Response:

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

**Grant that what we have asked in faith
we may by your grace receive,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Lay reader says.

God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy, welcoming sinners and inviting them to the Lords table.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, confident in God's forgiveness.

Merciful God,

**our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.**

Father, forgive us.

**Strengthen us to love and obey you
in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness
to all who turn to him in faith:

+ pardon you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Lay reader announces.

Offertory Hymn: TIS 614 - O God of love.

**1 O God of love, whose heart is ever yearning
that fixed on you our wayward thoughts may be,
now grant us grace to live as in your presence,
and help us all our erring ways to see.
May love subdue the ill in every nation,
and all to you as subjects bow the knee.**

**2 O Father God, moved ever by compassion
for children crushed by sorrow's heavy load
be swift to aid the downcast and the cheerless,
lift up the fallen on life's thorny road.
Give calm and strength to overcome with patience,
and safely bring them to your blest abode.**

**3 O God of peace, whose Son with our sins laden
died to secure from bondage our release,
help us to banish hate between the nations,
to live as neighbours, and make wars to cease.
Bring in the reign of friendship universal,
and in your mercy grant to us your peace.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.

Blessed be God for ever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, faithful God,
always and everywhere,
for with your only begotten Son
and life-giving Spirit,
you are the one true God from everlasting to everlasting.

At the dawn of time you wrought from nothing
a universe of beauty and splendour,
bringing light from darkness
and order from chaos.

You formed us, male and female, in your image,
and endowed us with creative power.

We turned away from you but you did not abandon us.
You called us by name and searched us out,
making a covenant of mercy,
giving the law, and teaching justice by the prophets.

And so we praise you,
joining with your faithful people of every time and place,
singing the eternal 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.

When the fullness of time was come,
you sent your Son to be born of Mary.

Bright image of your glory,
he learnt obedience to you in all things,
even to death on a cross,
breaking the power of evil,
freeing us from sin, and putting death to flight.

You raised him from death,
exalting him to glory,
and the new day dawned.

On the night he was betrayed
your Son Jesus Christ shared food with his friends,
his companions on the way.

While at table he took bread,
blessed, and broke it,
and giving it to them, said:
'Take, eat; this is my body.'

He took a cup of wine,
and, giving thanks, he gave it to them, and said,
'This is my blood of the covenant,
which is poured out for many.
Do this in remembrance of me.

Lay reader says. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Therefore, living God, as we obey his command,
we remember his life of obedience to you,
his suffering and death,
his resurrection and exaltation,
and his promise to be with us for ever.
With this bread and this cup
we celebrate his saving death until he comes.

Accept, we pray, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
and send your Holy Spirit upon us and our celebration
that all who eat and drink at this table
may be strengthened by Christ's body and blood to serve you in the world.

As one body and one holy people,
may we proclaim the everlasting gospel
of Jesus Christ our Lord,
through whom, with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory is yours, eternal God, now and for ever.

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to 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.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the Kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us,
and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

All are welcome to come forward to receive communion or a blessing if you prefer.

SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Let us pray.

Living God,

In this holy meal you fill us with new hope.

May the power of your love,
which we have known in word and sacrament,
continue your saving work among us,
give us courage for our pilgrimage,
and bring us to the joys you promise.

Most loving God,
**you send us into the world you love.
Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage
in the power of your Spirit.**

Lay reader announces. **NOTICES**

Lay reader announces.

Closing Hymn: TIS 534 - Love is his word, love is his way.

**1 Love is his word, love is his way,
feasting with friends, fasting alone,
living and dying, rising again,
love, only love, is his way.**

***Richer than gold is the
the love of my Lord:
better than splendour
and wealth.***

**2 Love is his way, love is his mark,
sharing his last Passover feast,
Christ at his table, host to the twelve,
love, only love, is his mark.**

Refrain.

**3 Love is his mark, love is his sign,
bread for our strength, wine for our joy,
“This is my body, this is my blood”,
love, only love, is his sign.**

Refrain.

**4 Love is his sign, love is his news,
“Do this” he said, “lest you forget
all my deep sorrow, all my life’s blood.”
Love, only love, is his news.**

Refrain

**5 Love is his news, love is his name,
we are his own, chosen and called,
sisters and brothers, cousins and kin.
Love, only love, is his name.**

Refrain

**6 Love is his name, love is his law.
Hear his command, all who are his:
“Love one another, as I have loved you.”
Love, only love, is his law.
*Refrain***

**7 Love is his law, love is his word:
love of the Lord, Father and Word,
love of the Spirit, God ever one.
Love, only love, is his word.
*Refrain***

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, + the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, those whom you love and have loved now and always. **Amen.**

Lay reader says.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
+ In the name of Christ, amen.



Thank you for joining in our worship today. We offer an after-service ‘cuppa’ in our meeting room next to the foyer after Sunday services - you are invited to join us.

If you wish to know more about our community life, speak to our welcome team members who hand out the service books, ask for a welcome brochure, or visit our website.

Worship Roster today – 8am Lay reader Jim Moore, Reader Shamindra Costa, Welcomers Lyn Lynch

10am Lay reader Naomi Nesimnahan, Communion minister *****. R1 Roger Heath, R2 Joel Shambrook, Intercessor Jenny Heath, Welcomers Cheryl Yon & Lyn Lynch, Counters ***** , *****.

NOTICES

Office Manager

St John the Divine Croydon is seeking a person to be engaged as Office Manager in a part time capacity.

The person would be required to attend the Parish Office each weekday for three hours per day.

Applicants will need to demonstrate experience in general office administration, events and website management.

Please contact Ken Hutton on (m) 0427394532 or at Khutton@stjohndivine.org.au for the position description or further information.

September Worship Rosters: have been emailed out.

For those parishioners not on email hard copies are available in the Narthex.

Any queries contact Helen Duncan.

Cooking for The Dining Room Mission - Tuesday 12th September.

St John's is on duty again at The Dining Room Mission this coming Tuesday 12th September and cooks and helpers are needed. As usual, cooks are provided with a recipe and main ingredients and transport can be arranged if you are unable to deliver food to the Dining room on Tuesday afternoon. We also need people to help in the kitchen from 4:30 pm and to talk to guests and assist with serving etc. from around 5:00 pm.

As a partner with the Dining Room Mission, St John's serves approx. 60 meals to our community each month, and donations towards the cost of ingredients are always welcome. Please see Cathy Cossey if you can assist or if you know someone who would benefit from our community meals program.

Funeral of Graham Jelley: will be held at St John the Divine Croydon on Wednesday 13th of September at 11:00am, Fr. Derek Jones presiding. Afterwards at Lilydale Cemetery followed by refreshments on site there.

Combined 8/10 Service Sunday 17/09/23: Only 1 service at 9:00am with a special morning tea after to Celebrate all those who have birthdays in September.

Parish Directory

Address: 5 Toorak Ave, Croydon Vic 3136
Office: 03 9723 5099
Email: office@stjohndivine.org.au
Website: www.stjohndivine.org.au - *also on Facebook*
Acting Vicar: Fr. Sathi (Sam) Anthony 0400 248 347
please leave a message when calling.
Email: vicar@stjohndivine.org.au

Please email notices to Parish Office by Wednesday 2:00 pm.

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

	15th Sunday after Pentecost
Sun 10 th September	8:00 am Said Eucharist 10:00 am Sung Eucharist <i>8:00 pm A.A. meeting in fellowship room.</i>
Mon 11 th September	<i>10:30 am Al Anon meeting in fellowship room.</i>
Tue 12 th September	<i>1:00 pm A.A. meeting in fellowship room.</i> 5:30 pm Community meal: TDRM
Wed 13 th September	10:00 am Eucharist Cancelled today. 11:00 am Funeral of Graham Jelley <i>5:30 pm Community meal: Winter Shelter</i> <i>7:30 pm N.A. meeting in fellowship room.</i>
Thurs 14 th September	<i>10:30 am A.A. meeting in fellowship room</i> <i>11:00 am Park Lane Aged Care communion</i> <i>7:00 pm Parish Council LG meeting room.</i>
Fri 15 th September	
Sat 16 th September	<i>7:00 am A.A. meeting in fellowship room.</i> 10:30 am Focus on Faith & Friendship meeting. <i>6:00 pm Lai Christian Church service.</i>
	16th Sunday after Pentecost
Sun 17 th September	9:00 am Combined 8/10 Sung Eucharist Followed by monthly Birthday morning tea <i>8:00 pm A.A. meeting in fellowship room</i>

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