

St John the Divine Croydon

Eucharist Service at 8AM

1st Sunday of Advent

30 November 2025



Welcome to our worship and community life at St John the Divine. All are welcome to come forward to make your communion with God, receiving either the sacrament, or a blessing if you prefer.

All stand when the bell rings.

[The sanctuary party will process towards the Altar with music provided by the Organist. The opening hymn will be sung once the sanctuary party has assumed their seats.]

THE ADVENT WREATH

[C] Heavenly Father, as we begin this Advent,
give light to our eyes and peace to our hearts.
May the Lord find us watching and waiting in joy when he comes.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!



GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

[C] Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.

[C] The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

Sentence of the day

[EA] Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths. [Isaiah 2.3a]

[EA] 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.

[EA] '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.'

[EA] The Lord comes, bringing to light things now hidden in darkness, and disclosing the purposes of the heart.

[silence may be kept]

Let us open our hearts and prepare for his coming, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**Merciful God, our make 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.**

[C] 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.**

**Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy**

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.

Collect of the day

[C] Let us pray:

Faithful God, whose promises stand unshaken through all generations: renew us in hope, that we may be awake and alert watching for the glorious return of Jesus Christ, our Judge and Saviour, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

[Please be seated for the Readings]

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

THE 1st READING – Isaiah 2.1-5

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

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

PSALM 122 (read by alternate verses)

¹ I was glad when they said to me :
'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'

² **And now our feet are standing :
within your gates, O Jerusalem;**

³ Jerusalem which is built as a city :
where the pilgrims gather in unity.

⁴ **There the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord :
as he commanded Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord.**

⁵ There are set thrones of judgement :
the thrones of the house of David.

⁶ **O pray for the peace of Jerusalem :
may those who love you prosper.**

⁷ Peace be within your walls :
and prosperity in your palaces.

⁸ **For the sake of my brothers and companions :
I will pray that peace be with you.**

⁹ For the sake of the house of the Lord our God :
I will seek for your good.

THE EPISTLE – Romans 13.9-14

⁹The 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.’ ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; ¹³let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

[Please stand for the gospel]

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Matthew 24.36-44**

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

³⁶‘But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

[For] the Gospel of the Lord, **praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

[Please be seated for the sermon / reflections.]

Sermon / Reflections

THE CREED

[EA] Let us stand and 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 [Intercession]

[EA] Let us pray for the world, the church and one another

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us 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 for ever. Amen.

PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

[EA] Jesus said: Come to me all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. [Matthew 11.28]

Jesus said: I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, even as I have loved you. [John 6.35]

[EA] Let us pray:

We do not presume

to come to your table, merciful Lord,

trusting in our own righteousness,

but in your manifold and great mercies.

We are not worthy

so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.

But you are the same Lord

whose nature is always to have mercy.

Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,

so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ,

and to drink his blood,

that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

THE GREETING OF PEACE

[C] We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

[C] The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

[All may exchange a sign of peace]

Offertory prayer

[C] 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

[C] [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.

[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

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,
mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for you Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary
and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross
and rising to new life,
he offered the one true sacrifice for sin
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

We thank you that when he shall come again
in power and great triumph to judge the world,
we may with joy behold his appearing,
and in confidence stand before him
who redeems us from sin and death
and makes us heirs of everlasting life.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**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.]**

Merciful God, we thank you
for these gifts of your creation,
this bread and wine,
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,
we who eat and drink them
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,
and again giving you thanks
he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink from this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:
proclaiming his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming again,
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father,

in songs of never-ending praise;
**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

As this broken bread was once many grains, which have been gathered together and made one bread:

so may your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.

[The wine will be administered in two chalices. The taller chalice will be for 'sipping' and the shorter chalice for 'dipping/intinction']

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.

PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

[C] God for whom we wait, we thank you that you have fed us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation. As we joyfully await you Son, keep us ever watchful that we may be ready to stand before him on the day of his coming.

[C] Father,
**we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.**

Notices, if any by one of the Wardens

[C] Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen .**

[EA] Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Worship Roster for today

8.00am E.A. Helen Duncan, **R1&R2.** Deborah Guess, **Intercessor.** Rev Jenny, **Cr.** Norm Stephens, **C.M.** Norm Stephens, **W.** Eileen Moore & Caroline Stephens

E.A: Eucharistic Assistant, **C.M.:** Communion Minister, **Cr.** Crucifer, **R:** Reader, **W:** Welcomers



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.

NOTICES

Thank you

We recently received a very generous anonymous donation of \$4,000 to St John's and wish to convey the Parish's gratitude for this donation.

News from your Fund Raising Team

ATTN PARISHIONERS

The Christmas cake fund raiser has been cancelled. Apologies are sent.
From your Friendly Fund Raising Team.

2025 Parish Council Report

The annual Parish Council Report that was omitted from our recent APM is now on display in the foyer.

Anglicare Christmas Toy Appeal

Christmas is quickly approaching and Anglicare is having a Christmas Toy Drive to spread joy and love to children and teens. If you would like to contribute, they are seeking new, unwrapped toys, vouchers, books for children ages 0-18. Donations can be given to office during office hours (Tues and Wed, 9AM-12PM) by 10 December at the latest. Please find poster at narthex for more information.

SJD Christmas Services

Please note St John the Divine Christmas Services as below:

11-Dec	5.30PM	Kindergarten Christmas Carol
21 Dec	9AM	4 th Sunday of Advent + Crib service
24 Dec	11PM	Midnight Service
25 Dec	9AM	Christmas Service

Please also note that all Sunday services from 28 December and January 2026 are COMBINED SERVICE at 9AM.

Readings for next weeks

7-Dec	Advent 2	Isaiah 11.1-10	Ps 72.1-7, 18-21	Romans 15.4-13	Matthew 3.1-12
14-Dec	Advent 3	Isaiah 35.1-10	Song of Mary or Ps 146	James 5.7-10	Matthew 11.2-11
21-Dec	Advent 4	Isaiah 7.10-16	Ps 80.1-7, 17-19	Romans 1.1-7	Matthew 1.18-25

PARISH DIRECTORY

Address	5 Toorak Ave, Croydon VIC 3136
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Vicar	Fr. Sathi (Sam) Anthony (BD, MTh) 0400 248 347 please leave a message when calling Email: sathianthony@optusnet.com.au

Banking details for those who wish to make a direct deposit to support our programs and for your regular offering:

Westpac: BSB # 033-044, St. John's General Account # 251582

Please email notices to Parish Office by Wednesday 9AM

THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

		1 st Sunday of Advent	
Sun	30-Nov	8:00 am	Said Eucharist
		10:00 am	Sung Eucharist + Wedding of Patrick Fitzgerald and Norma Seip
Mon	1-Dec	10:30 am	<i>Al Anon (fellowship room)</i>
Tue	2-Dec	5:30 pm	Community meal: TDRM
		7:00 pm	<i>A.A. meeting (fellowship room)</i>
Wed	3-Dec	10:00 am	Said Eucharist
		5:15 pm	<i>Community meal: Winter Shelter</i>
		7:00 pm	<i>N.A. meeting (fellowship room)</i>
Thu	4-Dec		
Fri	5-Dec		
Sat	6-Dec	7:00 am	<i>A.A. meeting (fellowship room)</i>
		2 nd Sunday of Advent	
Sun	7-Dec	8:00 am	Said Eucharist
		10:00 am	Sung Eucharist

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