

St John the Divine Croydon

Eucharist Service

3rd Sunday of ADVENT

14 December 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

[The third advent candle is lit while singing TiS 286 – Light one candle]

**Light one candle for love,
one bright candle for love.
He brings love to every heart.
He comes! He comes!**

**Light one candle for hope
one bright candle for hope.
He brings hope to every heart.
He comes! He comes!**

**Light one candle for joy
one bright candle for joy.
Every nation will find salvation
Bethl'em's baby boy**



[C] As we draw near to you, Lord God,
keep us aware of your presence in all we do.
Come with power to enlighten us by your grace,
that we may live in praise and peace all our days.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

[C] The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Sentence of the day

[EA] Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God.'

[Isaiah 35.3–4]

[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 promises 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:

Sustain us, O God, with the power of your love on our journey to meet the One who is coming: strengthen our weak hands, make firm our feeble knees, and open blind eyes to the dawning of your kingdom, so that our hearts may rejoice as we behold the majesty of our God. We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and 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 35.1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.'

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
7 the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,^[a]
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
8 A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,^[b]
but it shall be for God's people;^[c]
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.
9 No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
10 And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

PSALM 146 (read by alternate verses)

1 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul :
while I live I will praise the Lord;
2 **While I have any being :**
I will sing praises to my God.
3 Put not your trust in princes :
nor in the sons of men, who cannot save.
4 **For when their breath goes from them,**
they return again to the earth :
and on that day all their thoughts perish.
5 Blessed is the man whose help is the God of Jacob :
whose hope is in the Lord his God,
6 **The God who made heaven and earth :**
the sea, and all that is in them,

⁷Who keeps faith for ever :
who deals justice to those that are oppressed.

**⁸The Lord gives food to the hungry :
and sets the captives free.**

⁹The Lord gives sight to the blind :
the Lord lifts up those that are bowed down.

**¹⁰The Lord loves the righteous :
the Lord cares for the stranger in the land.**

¹¹He upholds the widow and the fatherless :
as for the way of the wicked, he turns it upside down.

**¹²The Lord shall be king for ever :
your God, O Zion, shall reign through all generations.**

Praise the Lord.

THE EPISTLE – James 5.7-10

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

[EA] Gradual hymn: **TiS 427 - Lord your word abiding**

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Lord, your word abiding,
and our footsteps guiding,
gives us joy for ever,
binds us all together. | 3. Word of mercy, giving
nourishment for living;
word of life, supplying
comfort to the dying. |
| 2. Who can tell the pleasure,
who recount the treasure,
by your word imparted
to the simple-hearted? | 4. O that we, discerning
its most holy learning,
Lord, may love and fear you,
evermore be near you. |

[Please remain standing for the gospel]

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Matthew 11.2-11**

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?’ ⁴Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.’

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.”

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

[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:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE [Intercession]

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

The prayers conclude with:

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.

PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

[EA] Jesus said: I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. [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 is us. Amen.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

[C] Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.

We meet in his name and share his peace.

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

And also with you.

[All may exchange a sign of peace]

[EA] Offertory Hymn: **TiS 276 – There’s alight upon the mountains**

1. There’s a light upon the mountains, and the day is at the spring
when our eyes shall see the beauty and the glory of the King;
weary was our heart with waiting, and the night-watch seemed so long,
but his triumph day is breaking, and we hail it with a song.
2. There’s a hush of expectation, and a quiet in the air,
and the breath of God is moving in the fervent breath of prayer:
for the suffering, dying Jesus is the Christ upon the throne,
and the travail of our spirit is the travail of his own.
3. He is breaking down the barriers, he is casting up the way,
he is calling for his angels to build up the gates of day:
but his angels here are human, not the shining hosts above;
for the drum-beats of his army are the heart-beats of our love.
4. Hark, we hear a distant music, and it comes with fuller swell --
the great triumph song of Jesus, of our King, Immanuel:
Zion, go you forth to meet him; and, my soul, be swift to bring
all your finest and your dearest for the triumph of our King!

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.

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 was looked for by the prophets,
heralded by the Baptist
announced by an angel,
born of the Virgin Mary,
and revealed at last to men and women of every race.

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.

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.'

[Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:]

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:
proclaiming his offering of himself
made one 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.**

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 for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

[Sing/say]

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.**

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 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.

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

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 your Son, keep us ever watchful that we may be ready to stand before him on the day of his coming.

[Notices, if any by one of the Wardens]

[EA] Closing Hymn : **TiS 271 – The advent of our God**

1. The advent of our God,
with eager prayers we greet,
and singing hasten on his road
his coming reign to meet.
2. The everlasting Son
was born to make us free;
and he a servant's form put on
to gain our liberty.
3. Let Zion now arise
to greet her infant king,
and gladly take with thankful heart
the peace he comes to bring.
4. As judge, on clouds of light,
he soon will come again,
his scattered people to unite,
with them in heaven to reign.

[continue on next page]

5. Then evil flee away,
before the rising dawn!
Let our old nature day by day
God's image still put on.

6. Praise to the incarnate Son
who comes to set us free,
with Father, Spirit, ever one
to all eternity.

[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. Rosemary Callow, **R1 & R2.** Sonia Shaw, **Intercessor.** Fr. Sam, **Cr.** Norm Stephens, **C.M.** Norm Stephens, **W.** Jean Jelley & Noel Hardy

10.00am E.A. Ken Hutton, **R1.** Jenny Harris , **R2.** Helen Duncan, **Intercessor.** Elizabeth Sanderson, **Cr.** Joel Shambrook, **C.M.** Elizabeth Sanderson, **W.** Cheryl Yon & Norma Fitzgerald, **Counters.** Helen Duncan & Joel Shambrook

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

Service for NEXT WEEK - 4th Sunday of Advent

Please note that there will be NO Eucharist Service on 21 December 2025 (combined service at 9AM). This will be a Carol service including a family friendly Crib service.

Supportive Friends

A HUGE thank you to all our members for their very generous response to the Christmas appeal for gifts to Anglicare and to the Salvation Army's Refuge Centre in Croydon. There was a wonderful array of toys, toiletries, bags and Christmas treats of all kinds. The toys were delivered to Anglicare in Lilydale and the toiletries, food etc were delivered to the Refuge. It was a joy to deliver them - the staff at both centres were so delighted and grateful.

Our next meeting will be on February 20th.

The Melbourne Anglican



Our December 2025 edition of *The Melbourne Anglican* will be in print form soon, and is live on Diocese website now. It's available at bit.ly/ThisMonthsTMA or by scanning the QR code.

Some of the things you can find on December issue:

The Melbourne diocese installed Archbishop Ric Thorpe on Advent Sunday, but if you missed watching that or even the ordinations of Melbourne's newest priests, our December issue is where you'll find out more.

It's also a chance to become better acquainted with Archbishop Ric and Louie Thorpe and some of their plans for life in Melbourne and the diocese in the coming decade.

Glenn Loughrey walks us through Victoria's historic Indigenous Treaty, while Kristina Kettleton considers Australia's social media ban on young people.

And many more.

Thank you St John's TDRM Team

Thank you to everyone who helped with The Dining Room Mission meal on Tuesday. It was another fantastic effort from our wonderful team. Thank you to everyone who made the delicious mashed potatoes and came along to cook all the sausages. The meal was thoroughly enjoyed by all the guests who always love bangers and mash!

Thank you also to the wonderful hardworking kitchen team who made the salad, served the meals, and did all the dishes. Well done everyone!

The next cooking date for the St John's team is **January 13** so please put the date into your diaries.

If you would like more information about TDRM please see Cathy Cossey (0402 239 933).

Singing Group Rehearsal 9am Saturday December 20

The singing group will be rehearsing at 9am next Saturday, December 20 for the family friendly Crib Service at 9am on Sunday December 21. Everyone who enjoys singing is invited to come. No experience is necessary! Please see Cathy or Jenny W if you have any queries.

SJD Christmas Services

Please note St John the Divine Christmas Services as below:

21 Dec	9AM	4 th Sunday of Advent (Carols and lessons and family friendly Crib service; no communion)
24 Dec	11PM	Midnight Service
25 Dec	9AM	Christmas Service

Please also note

- All Sunday services from 28 December and January 2026 are COMBINED SERVICE at 9AM
- NO Wednesday service in January 2026.

Rosters for next week : 21-Dec

9AM W. Jenny Harris & Helen Duncan; **Counters.** Jim Moore & Mark Duncan

24-Dec	The Birth of Our Lord (Midnight Service)	Isaiah 9.2-7	Ps 96	Titus 2.11-14	Luke 2.1-14 (15-20)
25-Dec	The Birth of Our Lord	Isaiah 62.6-12	Ps 97	Titus 3.4-8a	Luke 2.(1-7) 8-20

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

		3rd Sunday of Advent	
Sun	14-Dec	8:00 am	Said Eucharist
		10:00 am	Sung/Said Eucharist
Mon	15-Dec	10:30 am	<i>Al Anon (fellowship room)</i>
Tue	16-Dec	5:30 pm	Community meal: TDRM
		7:30 pm	<i>A.A. meeting (fellowship room)</i>
Wed	17-Dec	10:00 am	Said Eucharist
		7:00 pm	<i>N.A. meeting (fellowship room)</i>
Thu	18-Dec		
Fri	19-Dec		
Sat	20-Dec	7:00 am	<i>A.A. meeting (fellowship room)</i>
		9:00 am	Singing Group rehearsal
		4th Sunday of Advent	
Sun	21-Dec	9:00 am	Carol and lessons, including Crib Service

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