St John the Divine Croydon

Eucharist Service

Australia Day

25 January 2026

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. The Liturgy of the day could be sung or said.

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.]

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

[EA] Opening Hymn: **TiS 188 – Where wide sky rolls down**

1. Where wide sky rolls down and touches red sand,
   where sun turns to gold the grass of the land,
   let spinifex, mulga and waterhole tell
   their joy in the One who made everything well.

2. Where rain-forest calm meets reef, tide and storm,
   where green things grow lush and oceans are warm,
   let every sea-creature and tropical bird
   exult in the light of the life-giving Word.

3. Where red gum and creek cross hillside and plain,
   where cool tree-ferns rise to welcome the rain,
   let bushland, farm, mountain-top, all of their days
   delight in the Spirit who formed them for praise.

4. Now, people of faith, come gather around
   with songs to be shared, for blessings abound!
   Australians, whatever your culture or race,
   come, lift up your hearts to the Giver of grace.

[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] Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people. [Matthew 4.23]

[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.

Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy

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.

Collect of the day

[C] Let us pray:

Bounteous God, we give thanks for this ancient and beautiful land, a land of despair and hope, a land of wealth and abundant harvests, a land of fire, drought and flood. We pray that your Spirit may continue to move in this land and bring forgiveness, reconciliation, and an end to all injustice; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We bless you, God of the universe, for this land, for its contrasts of landscape and climate, for its abundance of wealth and opportunity, its courage and hope. Give us in our diversity tolerance and respect for each other and a passionate commitment to justice for all. Bless us so that we might be a blessing to others. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

[Please be seated for the Readings]

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

THE 1ST READING – Deuteronomy 8.5-14a

5 Know then in your heart that as a parent disciplines a child so the Lord your
God disciplines you. 6 Therefore keep the commandments of the Lord your
God, by walking in his ways and by fearing him. 7 For the Lord your God is
bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and
underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, 8 a land of wheat and
barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and
honey, 9 a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack
nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine
copper. 10 You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land
that he has given you.

11 Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God, by failing to keep his
commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding
you today. 12 When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and
live in them, 13 and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your
silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, 14 then do not
exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land
of Egypt, out of the house of slavery,

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

Hymn: **‘For you deep stillness’**

Words: Julie Perrin, Music: Robinn Mann

For you, deep stillness of the silent in land;
for you, deep blue of the desert skies,
for you, flame red of the rocks and stones,
for you sweet water from hidden springs

From the edges seek the heartlands,
and when you’re burnt by the journey
may the cool winds of the hovering Spirit
soothe and replenish you
in the name of Christ
in the name of Christ

THE EPISTLE – Hebrews 11.8-16

8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he
was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was
going. 9 By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in
a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him
of the same promise. 10 For he looked forward to the city that has
foundations, whose architect and builder is God. 11 By faith he received
power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was
barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. 12 Therefore
from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, ‘as
many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the
seashore.’

13 All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a
distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were
strangers and foreigners on the earth, 14 for people who speak in this way
make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. 15 If they had been thinking
of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to
return. 16 But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one.
Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has
prepared a city for them.

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

[EA] Gradual Hymn: **Christ Be Our Light**

Words and music: Bernadette Farrell

1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
   longing for truth, we turn to you.
   make us your own, your holy people,
   light for the world to see.

[Refrain] Christ be our light
shine in our hearts
shine through the darkness
Christ be our light
shine in Your church gathered today.

2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled
   longing for hope many despair
   your word alone has power to save us
   make us your living voice. **[Refrain]**

3. Longing for food, many our hungry
   longing for water, many still thirst
   make us your bread, broken for others
   shared until all are fed. **[Refrain]**

4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless
   longing for warmth, many are cold
   make us your building, sheltering others,
   walls made of living stone. **[Refrain]**

5. Many the gifts, many the people
   many the hearts, that yearn to belong
   let us be servants to one another,
   making Your kingdom come. **[Refrain]**

[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 5.1-12**
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat
down, his disciples came to him. 2 Then he began to speak, and taught them,
saying:
3 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
4 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
5 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
6 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be
filled.
7 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
8 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
9 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
10 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs
is the kingdom of heaven.
11 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all
kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for
your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the
prophets who were before you.

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

[Please be seated for the sermon / reflections.]

Sermon / Reflections

THE APOSTLE'S 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:

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] God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. [John 3.16]

[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.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

[EA] If my people who are called by my name humble themselves. pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. [2 Chronicles 7.14]

Though Christ has called us into one body, the oneness of the peoples of this land has been broken by acts of oppression and the failure of compassion.

[*Silence may be kept*]

[EA] Let us therefore confess our brokenness, confident in God's power and promise to make us whole.
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.

[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.**

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 626 – Lord of creation to you be all praise**

1. Lord of creation, to you be all praise!
   Most mighty your working, most wondrous your ways!
   Your glory and might are beyond us to tell,
   and yet in the heart of the humble you dwell.

2. Lord of all power, I give you my will,
   in joyful obedience your tasks to fulfil.
   Your bondage is freedom; your service is song;
   and, held in your keeping, my weakness is strong.

3. Lord of all wisdom, I give you my mind:
   rich truth that surpasses our knowledge to find,
   what eye has not seen and what ear has not heard
   is taught by your Spirit and shines from your word.

4. Lord of all bounty, I give you my heart;
   I praise and adore you for all you impart,
   your love to inspire me, your counsel to guide,
   your presence to shield me, whatever betide.

5. Lord of all being, I give you my all;
   if ever I leave you I stumble and fall;
   but, led in your service your word to obey,
   I'll walk in your freedom to the end of the way.

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, thanks and praise,
be yours now and always,
Lord of every time and place,
God beyond our dreaming.

We give you thanks that from the beginning of time,
your Spirit has brooded over this ancient land.
In the fulness of time you revealed your 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 give you thanks that in him
you have revealed to us your presence
in the vastness of this land
your love in its fruitfulness, and
your purpose in its cycles of death and renewed 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.]

And now we thank you,
for these gifts of bread and wine,
may we who receive them,
as Jesus said,
share his body and his blood.

On the night he was betrayed, he took bread
and gave you thanks.
He broke the bread and gave it to his friends, and said,
'Take and eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup
and gave you thanks.
He shared the cup with them and said,
'This is my blood poured out
so that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

[Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:]
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

You have gathered us together
to feed on Christ
and to remember all he has done for us:

Fill us with your Spirit
that we may follow Jesus
in all we do and say,
working for justice and bringing your peace
to this world that you have made.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. 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.

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

[Sung/said]
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.

PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

[C] Heavenly Father, you have created all humanity in your image and likeness, and have revealed your plan and purpose in calling us your friends and family. As we have shared this holy meal, inspire our hearts to see every man, woman and child given the dignity and value which is your purpose and your gift; through Jesus Christ our Lord

[C] 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.

[Notices, if any by one of the Wardens]

[EA] Closing Hymn : **Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness**

Words by Rusty Edwards; © 1987 Hope Publishing Company

1. Praise the One who break the darkness
   with a liberating light.
   Praise the One who frees the prisoners
   turning blindness into sight.
   Praise the One who preached the Gospel
   healing every dread disease.
   Calming storms and feeding thousands
   with the very bread of peace.

2. Praise the One who blessed the children
   with a strong yet gentle word.
   Praise the One who drove out demons
   with a piercing two-edged sword.
   Praise the one who brings cool water
   to the desert's burning sand.
   From this well comes living water
   quenching thirst in every land.

3. Praise the one true love incarnate:
   Christ who suffered in our place.
   Jesus died and rose for many
   that we may know God by grace.
   Let us sing for joy and gladness
   seeing what our God has done.
   Praise the one redeeming glory,
   praise the One who makes us one.

[C] God of this ancient land, through baptism you have given us an inheritance into one family, give us grace to walk together in the unity of Christ Jesus; 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

E.A. Steven Sim, **R1.** Clive Mattingley; **R2.** Carol Doriean, **Intercessor**. Fr Sam, **Cr.** Joel Shambrook, **C.M.** Ailsa Wakeley, **W.** Jenny Harris & Carol Doriean; **Counters.** Joel Shambrook & Pei Lee

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

Special Parish Meeting

There will be a Special Parish Meeting on **Sunday, 15 February 2026** after the combined service for the purpose of:

1. Tabling and adopting the audited financial accounts of the Parish for the year ended Sep 2025.
2. To appoint The Field Group as auditors for the Year ending Sep 2026.

All those on the Electoral Roll at the time of 2025 APM are invited to attend.

Sunday and Wednesday Services commence February 2026

Please note that from February, Sunday services will be back to 2 services as usual: 8AM Said Eucharist and 10AM Sung/Said Eucharist, and Combined Service every 3rd Sunday of the month.
Wednesday Services will commence 4 February 2026 at 10AM.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday service will be held on Wednesday, 18 February 2026 at 10AM and 7PM.

The Commissioning of Revd. Isaac Koroh

The Commissioning of Revd. Isaac Koroh as Vicar of South Croydon Anglican Church is to be held on 3 February 2026 at 7.30PM. at 199 Bayswater Road, Bayswater North. There is room only for Fr Sam as Deanery minister.

PARISH DIRECTORY

Address	5 Toorak Ave, Croydon VIC 3136
Office	03 9723 5099 Tues, Wed, 9am -12pm
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Website	www.stjohndivine.org.au - *also on Facebook*
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

		Australia Day		
Sun	25-Jan	9:00	am	Said/Sung Eucharist COMBINED SERVICE
				Followed by Australia Day Celebration Lunch
Mon	26-Jan	*10:30*	*am*	*Al Anon (fellowship room)*
Tue	27-Jan	5:30	pm	Community meal: TDRM
		7:30	*pm*	*A.A meeting (fellowship room)*
Wed	28-Jan	*5:15*	*pm*	*Community meal: Winter Shelter*
		7:00	*pm*	*N.A. meeting (fellowship room)*
Thu	29-Jan			
Fri	30-Jan			
Sat	31-Jan	*7:00*	*am*	*A.A. meeting (fellowship room)*
		The Presentation of Christ in the Temple		
Sun	1-Feb	8:00	am	Said Eucharist
		10:00	am	Sung/Said Eucharist

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