



Sunday 11 August 2024, 10am
The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

The Eucharist

Presider
Revd Richard Carter

Preacher
Revd Dr Sam Wells

Soloist
Isabelle Palmer

Accompanist
Jonathan Dods

Mass Setting
Mass of St Thomas *Thorne*

Welcome

Our welcomers are available to assist with any of the following information. Toilets are available: please ask a welcomer.

Welcome whether you are joining us today in our building or online. Our cameras focus on those who are leading our service, but if you are in the building and would like to ensure that you are not caught on camera, please sit outside the pillars on the south of the church (to the right as you enter).

Welcome if you are disabled, unwell, have experiences of dementia, physical, sensory or mental health issues, or are neurodivergent. The order of service is online. Large print copies are also available. The hearing loop works best on the south side of the church. Step-free access to church is via the ramp on the north side, and to the Crypt and Hall via lifts in the NW porch and Pavilion.

Welcome to babies, children and young people. We understand that young children make noise. If your baby becomes upset during the service, you are welcome to go to the back of church if needed to settle — or to our children's church room. We support breastfeeding in services; we also have a room allocated if preferred. We have a children's church group during the service. A youth group for teenagers meets fortnightly on Sundays at 3.30pm.

Welcome to anyone in need of safeguarding. If you would like to reach our safeguarding team, you can email safeguarding@smitf.org.

Welcome to all heritages and experiences of race, culture and language. At the Lord's Prayer all are invited to bring the gift of our preferred language to our worship. Our 1.30pm is in Cantonese: our welcomers are happy to help where they can if you are new to English. You are also very welcome if you are LGBTQIA+.

Welcome if you are agnostic or are from a faith tradition other than Christianity. Welcome if you are wary of faith. **Welcome** if you're exploring. **Welcome** if you are here to support someone else. If you would like to explore what you believe in a friendly and non-judgemental group, our Being With courses run throughout the year online and in the building. Email being-with@smitf.org for more details.

You are welcome to share our meal with God. When we come to Holy Communion, we receive bread in the form of a wafer, then wine from a common cup. Non-alcoholic wine and gluten-free wafers are available in the south aisle. If you need to receive in your seat, please let a welcomer know and ministers will come to you. If you do not want to or cannot receive bread or wine for whatever reason you are welcome to let the priest know you would like to receive a simple prayer for blessing, or to stay in your seat. We welcome your ideas and help for us to become a more welcoming community.

We are glad you are here.

The Gathering

Welcome

Silence is kept.

The Greeting

The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

We acknowledge God's presence drawing each of us into one body as we gather on site and online.

Visit us Lord, by your Holy Spirit.

All **Though in many places, we are united as one body.
Though from many backgrounds, we share one hope.**

Opening Hymn

- 1 **Alleluia, sing to Jesus!
His the sceptre, his the throne;
alleluia, his the triumph,
his the victory alone:
hark, the songs of peaceful Sion
thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus out of every nation
hath redeemed us by his blood.**
- 2 **Alleluia, not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;
alleluia, he is near us,
faith believes, nor questions how:
though the cloud from sight received him,
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise,
'I am with you evermore'?**
- 3 **Alleluia, bread of angels,
thou on earth our food, our stay;
alleluia, here the sinful
flee to thee from day to day:
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
earth's Redeemer, plead for me,
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.**

continued...

4 **Alleluia, King eternal,
thee the Lord of lords we own;
alleluia, born of Mary,
earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne:
thou within the veil hast entered,
robed in flesh, our great High Priest;
thou on earth both Priest and Victim
in the eucharistic feast.**

William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)

Please sit or kneel.

Confession

Let us confess our sins to the God who knows our hearts and longs that we turn to him and walk in his ways.

Silence is kept.

We have followed our own paths and looked for guidance in the wrong places.

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

We have walked in the ways of the wicked.

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

When we have found wise words and right paths we have kept this knowledge to ourselves.

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

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.

All **Amen.**

Children gather at the north east door during the Gloria to go to Children's Church.

Please stand.

Gloria in Excelsis

Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God in the High - est. Glo-ry to God in the

High - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. Lord God, Heav'n - ly King, Al-

migh - ty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we_ praise you for your

glo - ry. Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God in the High - est.

Lord, Je - sus Christ, on - ly son of the Fa - ther. Lord God,

Lamb of God, you take_ a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us; You are

sea - ted at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. Glo-ry to God,

Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God in the High - est. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly one,

You a - lone are the Lord, You a - lone are the most high, Je - sus Christ,

with the Ho - ly spi - rit, in the Glo - ry of God the Fa - ther,

Glo - ry to God, Glo - ry to God, Glo - ry to God in the High - est.

Collect

O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Please sit.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading 2 Samuel 18: 5-9, 15, 31-33 *read by Julian Templeman*

The king gave orders to Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, 'Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom.' And all the people heard when the king gave orders to all the commanders concerning Absalom.

So the army went out into the field against Israel; and the battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim. The men of Israel were defeated there by the servants of David, and the slaughter there was great on that day, twenty thousand men. The battle spread over the face of all the country; and the forest claimed more victims that day than the sword.

Absalom happened to meet the servants of David. Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak. His head caught fast in the oak, and he was left hanging between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him went on. And ten young men, Joab's armour-bearers, surrounded Absalom and struck him, and killed him.

Then the Cushite came; and the Cushite said, 'Good tidings for my lord the king! For the Lord has vindicated you this day, delivering you from the power of all who rose up against you.' The king said to the Cushite, 'Is it well with the young man Absalom?' The Cushite answered, 'May the enemies of my lord the king, and all who rise up to do you harm, be like that young man.'

The king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept; and as he went, he said, 'O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would that I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!'

Hear the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Second Reading Ephesians 4: 25—5: 2 *read by Ivan Yuen*

So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbours, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labour and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Hear the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Please stand and turn to face the Gospel in the centre aisle.

Gospel Hymn

- 1 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
and drives away our fear.**
- 2 It makes the wounded spirit whole,
and calms the troubled breast;
'tis manna to the hungry soul,
and to the weary rest.**
- 3 Dear name, the rock on which I build,
my shield and hiding-place,
my never-failing treasury filled
with boundless stores of grace.**

continued...

**4 Jesus, my Shepherd, Saviour, Friend,
my Prophet, Priest, and King,
my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,
accept the praise I bring.**

continued after Gospel reading

Gospel Reading John 6: 35, 41-51

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

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, 'I am the bread that came down from heaven.' They were saying, 'Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, "I have come down from heaven"?' Jesus answered them, 'Do not complain among yourselves. No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, "And they shall all be taught by God." Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Hymn *continued*

**5 Weak is the effort of my heart,
and cold my warmest thought;
but when I see thee as thou art,
I'll praise thee as I ought.**

**6 Till then I would thy love proclaim
with every fleeting breath;
and may the music of thy name
refresh my soul in death.**

John Newton (1725-1807)

Please sit after the opening prayer.

Sermon Revd Dr Sam Wells

Anthem O Light of Life! *Mack Wilberg*

O Light of Life! O pure Light Divine! Thou art in us; our ember is thine. Kindle our faith, give hope when we fear, deepen our love thy fire appear! Light of our souls, thou spark at our birth, grow bright in us, shine in all the earth! O Light of Life! O true Light of Peace! Storms will arise, let thy light increase. Pierce through dark clouds, give pause to the proud; let thy shafts fall, lift humble heads bowed. Answer our pleas, melt hearts in thy flame. Make us as one, as one in thy name. O Light of Life! O sweet Light of Grace! Thou bidst us come, we follow apace. See the bright tree! Behold the white fruit! Feasting we weep, we witness the root! O Light of Life! O dear Light of Love! Come, wash us clean, send forth thy white Dove. Fill us with fire, enlighten our eyes; help us to love, 'tis price of the prize. Then let us come, enrobe us in white. Cleaving to thee, Light unto thy Light. Amen.

David Warner

Please stand.

Apostles' Creed

All **We believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
We believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
We 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.**

Please sit or kneel.

The Prayers of Intercession *led by Jess Templeman*

The response to the prayers is:

God of love,

All **hear our prayer.**

And, at the end:

Merciful Father,

All **accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Please stand.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

God is love and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

A collection will be taken for the work of this church during the following hymn. You are welcome to donate using:

- cash in the collection bags filling in a Gift Aid envelope if applicable*
- select amount and tap the card machines brought by the stewards*
- by texting COLLECTION to 70450 to donate £10 (texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message).*
- by scanning the QR code to the right with your phone*



Offertory Hymn

- 1 Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

continued...

- 2 Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet, and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.**
- 3 Take my voice, and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee.**
- 4 Take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.**
- 5 Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart: it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.**

A musical interlude may be played on the organ before the final verse is sung

- 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure-store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.**

Frances Ridley Havergal (1836–1879)

Preparation of the Table Taking of the Bread and Wine

The table is prepared and bread and wine are received from the congregation and placed upon it. The financial gifts of the people are gathered and presented with the following prayer:

Look upon us in mercy not in judgement; draw us from hatred to love;
make the frailty of our praise a dwelling place for your glory.

All **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

God of the living and the dead, it is our joy to give you thanks and praise because though we are your rebellious creation, you love us and go to every length to bring us home to you. As your servant David's son Absalom was left hanging between heaven and earth, your Son Jesus hung on the cross for our salvation. As the young men struck David's son and killed him, so Jesus, the Son of David, had a spear thrust into his side. And as David cried 'Would that I had died instead of you!' we recall that in Christ you did die instead of us, your wayward children. And so with humble, thankful hearts we join the angels and archangels to sing the hymn of your endless glory.

Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of po-wer and might, Hea-ven and earth are
full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na, Ho-san-na, Ho-san-na in the high -
est. Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san-na, Ho - san-na, Ho - san-na in the high - est.

True and living God, in Christ you send us the bread that comes down from heaven, and you promise that whoever eats of this bread will live forever. Sanctify your people that they may be marked with a seal for the day of redemption and be raised up on the last day. Send your Holy Spirit on this bread and this cup, that they may be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying, 'Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.' After supper he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Great is the mystery of faith.

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

Faithful God, you call us to imitate you in truth-telling, honesty, grace, kindness, forgiveness, and tender love. Show your people when to be angry, and how not to let the sun go down on their anger. Come among any who are entangled in bitterness and wrath and wrangling and malice and slander. Bring healing to all who are estranged from a family member or one to whom they were once bound in love. Build up those who are cast down by harshness or cruelty or violence. Usher every willing heart into the banquet of your kingdom, that all your creation may share the wonder of your mercy, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

All **Amen.**

Please sit or kneel.

Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray, each in our own preferred language.

All **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**

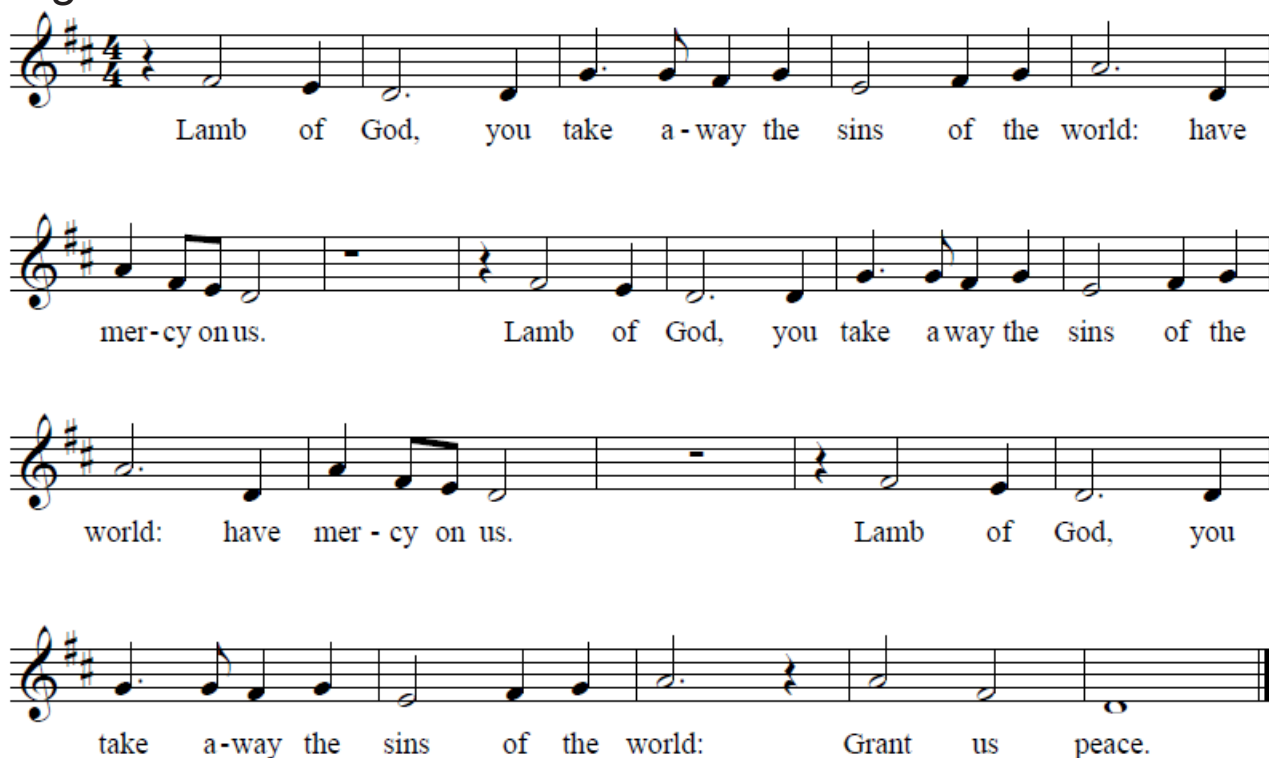
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

The body of Christ, broken for the life of the world

All **Lord, unite us in this sign.**

Agnus Dei



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the
world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a-way the sins of the world: Grant us peace.

Giving of Communion

Those who eat this bread will never be hungry.

All **Lord, give us this bread always.**

Communion Anthem Unless a grain of wheat *Bernadette Farell*

Unless a grain of wheat shall fall upon the ground and die it remains a single grain, a grain with no life. If we have died with him then we shall live with him; if we hold firm we shall reign with him. If anyone serves me then they must follow me; wherever I am my servants will be. Make your home in me as I make mine in you; those who remain in me bear much fruit. If you remain in me and my word lives in you; then you will be my disciples. Those who love me are loved by my Father; we shall be with them and dwell in them. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you; peace which the world cannot give is my gift.

John 12: 24; 2 Timothy 2: 11-12; John 12: 26; 15: 4-5; 15: 78; 14: 23; 15: 27

Silence is kept.

The Prayer after Communion

All You have opened to us the Scriptures, O Christ, and you have made yourself known in the breaking of the bread. Abide with us, we pray, that, blessed by your royal presence, we may walk with you all the days of our life, and at its end behold you in the glory of the eternal Trinity, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

The Dismissal

Notices

Please stand.

Blessing

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 and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Thanksgiving Hymn

- 1 God is Love: let heav'n adore him;
God is Love: let earth rejoice;
let creation sing before him,
and exalt him with one voice.
He who laid the earth's foundation,
he who spread the heav'ns above,
he who breathes through all creation,
he is Love, eternal Love.
- 2 God is Love: and he enfoldeth
all the world in one embrace;
with unfailing grasp he holdeth
every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow's iron rod,
then they find that selfsame aching
deep within the heart of God.

continued...

**3 God is love; with mercy boundless
God sustains all human life.
God's eternal loving kindness
guides us through our earthly strife.
Sin and death and hell shall never
o'er us final triumph gain.
God is love, so love for ever
o'er the universe must reign.**

Timothy Rees (1874-1939)

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Blessing Anthem Gaelic Blessing *John Rutter*

Deep peace of the running wave to you, deep peace of the flowing air to you, deep peace of the quiet earth to you, deep peace of the shining stars to you, deep peace of the gentle night to you, moon and stars pour their healing light on you, deep peace of Christ the light of the world to you, deep peace of Christ to you.

Adapted from a Gaelic rune

Organ Voluntary

Prayers for healing are available at the altar rail after the service.

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