



Sunday 29 September 2024, 10am
The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

The Eucharist

Presider and Preacher
Revd Angela Sheard

The Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields

Directed by
Jennifer Sterling

Organist
Phoebe Tak Man Chow

Setting
Mass of St Thomas *Thorne*

⊕ Common Worship

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 beingwith@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 The kingdom of God is justice and joy,
for Jesus restores what sin would destroy;
God's power and glory in Jesus we know,
and here and hereafter the kingdom shall grow.**
- 2 The kingdom of God is mercy and grace,
the captives are freed, the sinners find place,
the outcast are welcomed God's banquet to share,
and hope is awakened instead of despair.**
- 3 The kingdom of God is challenge and choice,
believe the good news, repent and rejoice.
God's love for us sinners brought Christ to his cross,
our crisis of judgement for gain or for loss.**
- 4 God's kingdom is come, the gift and the goal,
in Jesus begun, in heaven made whole;
the heirs of the kingdom shall answer his call,
and all things cry 'Glory!' to God all in all.**

Bryn Rees (1911-1983)

Please sit or kneel.

Confession

God has made us to be companions, but we have continually found ways to avoid, misuse and damage ourselves, one another and the creation. Let us return to God in words of penitence and faith.

Silence is kept.

You offer us glory, but we choose greed.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

You open out abundance, but we see only scarcity.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

You show us grace, but we multiply suspicion.

Lord, have mercy.

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 *see opposite*

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; 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.

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.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Esther 7: 1-6, 9-10; 9: 20-22 *read by Ivan Yuen*

So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, 'What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.' Then Queen Esther answered, 'If I have won your favour, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king.' Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, 'Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?' Esther said, 'A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!' Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen. Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, 'Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high.' And the king said, 'Hang him on that.' So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

Hear the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading James 5: 13-end *read by Fiona MacMillan*

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins

to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

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 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.**
- 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.**

continued after Gospel reading

Gospel Reading Mark 9: 38-end

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

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

John said to him, 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following

us.' But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell., And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

'For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn *continued*

**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.**

Richard Gillard (b. 1953)

Please sit after the opening prayer.

Sermon Revd Angela Sheard

Anthem Ubi caritas *Paul Mealor*

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est. Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor. Exsultemus et in ipso jucundemur. Timeamus et amemus Deum vivum. Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero. Amen. *Where charity and love are, God is there. The love of Christ has gathered us into one. Let us rejoice and delight in him. Let us fear and love the living God, and let us honour him with a sincere heart. Amen.*

Attr. Paulinus of Aquilea (d. 802)

Please stand.

Nicene Creed

All **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 from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
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.**

Please sit or kneel.

Prayers of Intercession *led by Jane 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

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 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven
who like me his praise should sing?
Alleluia, alleluia,
praise the everlasting King.**

continued...

- 2 Praise him for his grace and favour
to our forebears in distress;
praise him still the same as ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless:
Alleluia, alleluia,
glorious in his faithfulness.**
- 3 Father-like, he tends and spares us,
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes:
Alleluia, alleluia,
widely as his mercy flows.**
- 4 Frail as summer's flower we flourish,
blows the wind and it is gone;
but, while mortals rise and perish,
God endures unchanging on.
Alleluia, alleluia,
praise the high eternal One.**

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

- 5 Angels, help us to adore him,
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him
dwellers all in time and space:
Alleluia, alleluia,
praise with us the God of grace.**

Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847) based on Psalm 103

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:

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

All All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

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.**

Redeeming God, we delight to praise you for the triumphs of your grace and to thank you for the wonders of your love. You created all things to fulfil your longing to be in covenant relationship with us. When that trust was broken, you visited your children in the exile of Babylon and upheld them in a foreign place. Again in Christ you came closer to your people through suffering than they had been to you in times of plenty. Because his resurrection was for us and our salvation, we call upon your holy name in the hope that never disappoints us: and we celebrate your glory, joining with the host of heaven in the never-ending song.

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.

Renewing God, in Christ you reveal to us the heart of your life and you show us how to live the life of your heart. He is the wonder of you, standing before us, and the reality of us, standing before you. Send your Holy Spirit upon your children, that they may be shaped by your love and joy and peace. Bless this bread and wine by the power of that same Spirit, 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.**

Restoring God, visit today all who are sick: send them companions to abide with them, faithful friends to pray with them, forgiving disciples to be close to them in their suffering, and prophets to raise them from sadness and pain. As your servant Elijah prayed fervently for rain and found his answer in you, look with mercy on all who live in distress or scarcity or doubt or despair, and hear the cry of all who have found a stumbling block in those they had cause to trust. Turn our sorrow into dancing and our grief into hope, until your kingdom comes, your will is finally done, and you are all in all, God the three in one.

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.**

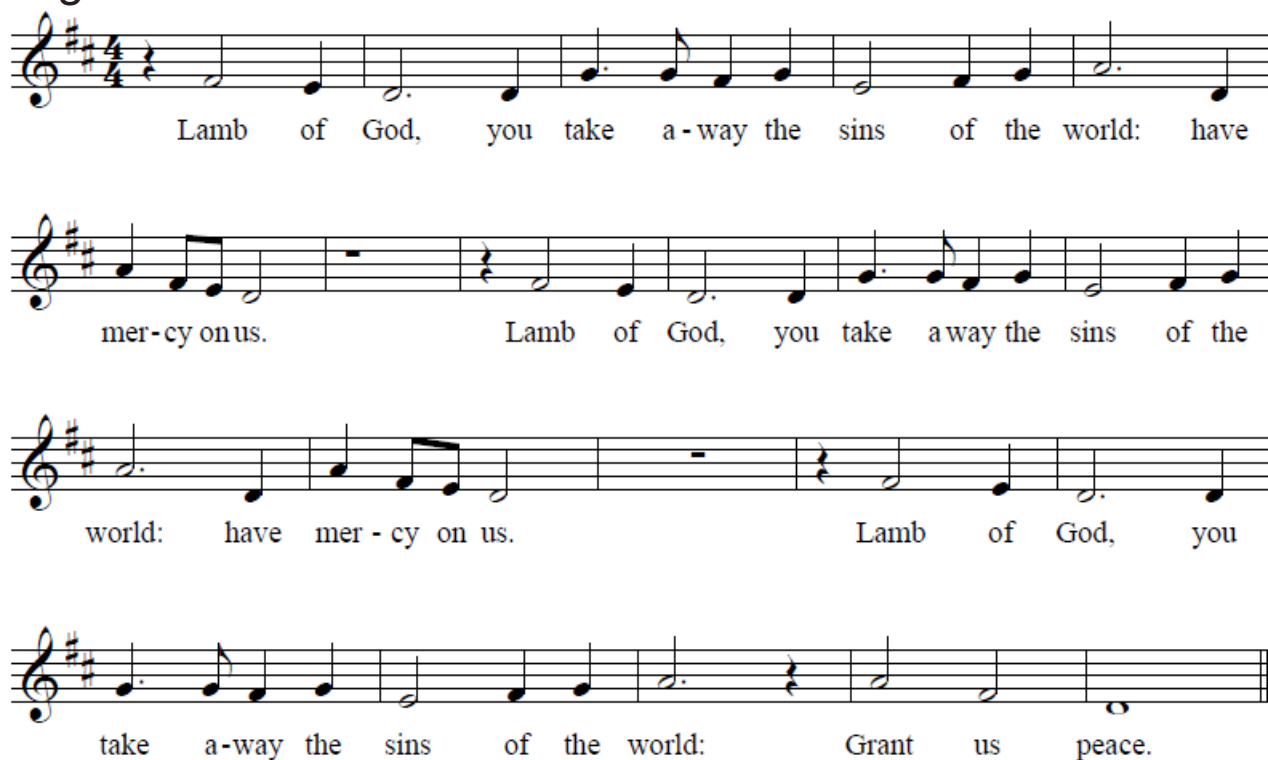
**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

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

All **Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

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

This is Christ's body, broken for you. Enter into the joy of his risen life.

Communicant members of all Christian Churches are invited to receive Holy Communion. Bread and wine are available in the central aisle and both side aisles. Gluten-free bread and non-alcoholic wine are available in the south aisle upon request from the assistant. If you wish to receive communion in your seat, do let a steward know.

Communion Anthem Unclouded Day *Alwood arr. Shawn Kirchner*

O they tell me of a home far beyond the skies, they tell me of a home far away, and they tell me of a home where no storm-clouds rise: O they tell me of an unclouded day. O the land of cloudless days, O the land of an unclouded sky. O they tell me of a home where my friends have gone, they tell me of a land far away, where the tree of life in eternal bloom sheds its fragrance through the unclouded day. O the land... O they tell me of a King in his beauty there, they tell me that mine eyes shall behold where he sits on a throne that is bright as the sun in the city that is made of gold. O the land...

J.K. Alwood (1828-1909)

Silence is kept.

Prayer after Communion

All **Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. 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 **Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
hold me with thy powerful hand:
*bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore.***

- 2 **Open now the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
*strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield.***

- 3 **When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
*songs and praises
I will ever give to thee.***

Arglwydd, arwain trwy'r anialwch, William Williams (1717-1791), tr. Peter Williams (1727-1796)

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

Blessing Anthem Peace I leave with you *Beach*

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you. Not as the world giveth give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled.

Unknown

Organ Voluntary Prelude from Sonata No. 2 *Becker*

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

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