



Sunday 1 December 2024, 10am
The First Sunday of Advent

The Eucharist

Presider
Revd Dr Sam Wells

Preacher
Revd Richard Carter

The Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields

Directed by
Jennifer Sterling

Organist
Phoebe Tak Man Chow

Mass Setting
St Anne's Mass *James MacMillan*

⊕ 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

Please stand. 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 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.***
- 2 O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave:
*Refrain***
- 3 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight:
*Refrain***
- 4 O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
*Refrain***

continued...

5 O come, O come, thou Lord of Might,
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.
**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Latin 13th century, tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

Please sit or kneel.

Confession

When the Lord comes, all that is now hidden in darkness will be brought to light, and the secret purposes of the heart will be disclosed. Let us keep silence as we hold our lives open before God, asking for forgiveness and peace.

Silence is kept.

You bring our fear into the light of love; we prefer to hide in the shadows.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

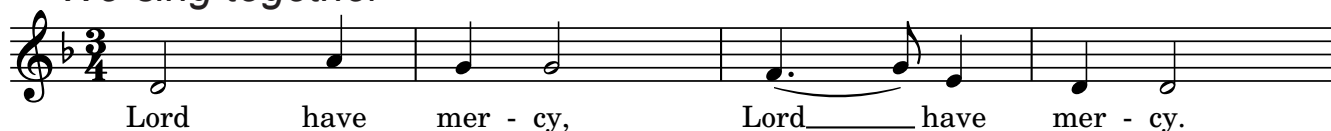
You promise healing for the earth;
we turn our backs on our common world.
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

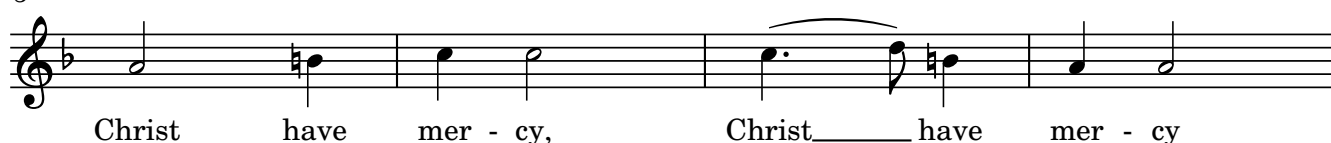
You come near in the vulnerable word made flesh;
we are unprepared for your coming.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

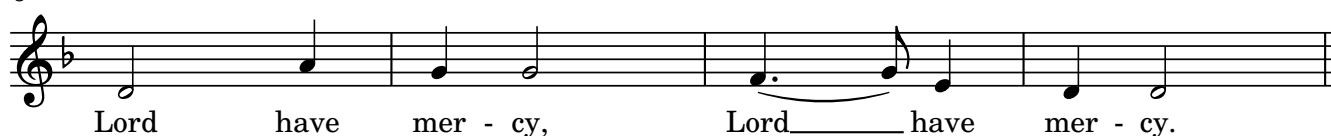
We sing together



5



9



The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon and forgiveness of all your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Please sit.

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

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

Anthem Drop down, ye heavens, from above *Judith Weir*

Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness. Comfort ye, comfort ye my people; my salvation shall not tarry. I have blotted out as a thick cloud, thy transgressions: fear not, for I will save thee; for I am the Lord thy God, the holy one of Israel, thy redeemer. *Drop down...*

Advent Prose

Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Jeremiah 33: 14-16 *read by Matt Frost*

'The days are surely coming', says the Lord, 'when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: The Lord is our righteousness.'

Hear the word of the Lord

All **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-end *read by Genevieve
Marjoribanks*

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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 Creator of the starry height,
thy people's everlasting light,
Jesu, redeemer of us all,
hear thou thy servants when they call.**
- 2 Thou, sorrowing at the helpless cry
of all creation doomed to die,
didst come to save our fallen race
by healing gifts of heavenly grace.**
- 3 When earth was near its evening hour,
thou didst, in love's redeeming power,
like bridegroom from his chamber, come
forth from a virgin-mother's womb.**
- 4 To thee, O Holy One, we pray,
our judge in that tremendous day,
ward off, while yet we dwell below,
the weapons of our crafty foe.**

continued after Gospel reading

Gospel Reading Luke 21: 25-36

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

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

Jesus said, 'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.' Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. 'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth.

Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn *continued*

**5 To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
praise, honour, might, and glory be
from age to age eternally. Amen.**

Based on Conditio alme siderum, Latin, 6th or 7th century, tr. John Mason Neale (1818–1866)

Please sit after the opening prayer.

Sermon Revd Richard Carter

Anthem There is no rose of such virtue *Joubert*

There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu: Alleluia. For in this rose contained was heaven and earth in little space: Resmiranda. By that rose we may well see there be one God in persons Three: Pares forma. Then leave we all this wordly mirth and follow we this joyous birth: Transeamus.

Anon., 15th century

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

In the tender mercy of our God, the dayspring from on high shall break upon us, to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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 'Sleepers, wake!' A voice astounds us,
the shout of rampart guards surrounds us:
'Awake, Jerusalem, arise!'
Midnight's peace their cry has broken,
their urgent summons clearly spoken:
'The time has come, O maidens wise!
Rise up, and give us light;
the Bridegroom is in sight.
Alleluia!
Your lamps prepare
and hasten there,
that you the wedding feast may share.'

2 Zion hears the watchmen singing;
her heart with joyful hope is springing,
she wakes and hurries through the night.
Forth he comes, her Bridegroom glorious
in strength of grace, in truth victorious:
her star is risen, her light grows bright.
Now come, most worthy Lord,
God's Son, Incarnate Word,
Alleluia!
We follow all
and heed your call
to come into the banquet hall.

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

3 Lamb of God, the heavens adore you;
let saints and angels sing before you,
as harps and cymbals swell the sound.
Twelve great pearls, the city's portals:
through them we stream to join the immortals
as we with joy your throne surround.
No eye has known the sight,
no ear heard such delight:
Alleluia!
Therefore we sing
to greet our King;
for ever let our praises ring.

Philip Nicolai (1556-1608) tr. Carl P. Daw (b. 1944)

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;

All **draw us from hatred to love; make the frailty of our praise a dwelling place for your glory.**

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

All **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.**

Blessed are you, God of David, for your faithfulness is steadfast and your mercy has been from of old. You draw your people to you with your promise of salvation, and every promise you make, in your goodness, you fulfill. From the house of David you raised up your Messiah to restore Judah and to herald that your deliverance was near. In your Son's righteousness we find our life: for his righteousness was more than enough for your people who had waited so long for justice, who had yearned so long for redemption, who had trusted so long in your grace; truly in his righteousness is fulfilled every hope of salvation in every generation. By his death we can stand justified before you; and through his resurrection we can share your holy life forever. And so with angels and archangels, we praise your name, joining the company of heaven in their unending hymn.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

5
God of power and might,

9
Heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho -

13
- san - na in the high - est.

17
Bles - sed is he, O bles - sed is he who

21
comes in the name of the Lord Ho -

25
- san - na in the high - est Ho -

29
san - na in the high - est.

God of glory, for whose coming we wait, make this meal we share a sign that our redemption draws near. Send your Holy Spirit upon your church: strengthen our hearts in all holiness that we may be heralds of your kingdom. By your same Spirit, sanctify this bread and this cup that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, blessed and broke it and gave it to them saying, 'This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' After supper he took the cup, again he gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples saying, 'This is the blood of the new covenant poured out 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.**

God of power, you have promised to make your way to us: come quickly to those who wait for you. Raise up every head that is bent low in sin. Lift up every heart that is bowed down in shame. Uphold every soul that is made heavy by oppression. Inspire every weary throat to sing of the day when justice and mercy meet. Bring us through all that is passing away to the life that shall never pass away, when every eye shall be lifted up to gaze upon your Son in everlasting glory with all your saints, and when the redemption for which we have longed shall forever be ours, in the company of your Son and the power of your Spirit, holy Father, blessed Trinity.

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

All **Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes in glory.**

Agnes Dei

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin_ of the_ world,_____ have
5 mer - cy_ on us. Lamb of God you take a - way the
9 sin_ of the_ world,_____ have mer - cy_ on us.
13 Lamb of God you take a - way the sin_ of the world,
17 grant_____ us peace

Giving of Communion

Behold Christ's body and blood, offered for the redemption of the world.

All He will come again with power and great glory.

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 Vigilate Byrd

Vigilate, nescitis enim quando Dominus domus veniat, sero, an media nocte, an galli cantu, an mane. Vigilare ergo, ne, cum venerit repente, inveniat vos dormientes. Quod autem dico vobis, omnibus dico; Vigilare. *Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning, lest coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.*

Mark 13: 35-37

Silence is kept.

Prayer after Communion

All **O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Dismissal

Notices

Please stand.

Blessing

May the God who brings heaven close to earth give truth to our judgement and flame to our longing that our hearts might be ready to be born again in love; and the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Thanksgiving Hymn

- 1 Of the Father's heart begotten
ere the world from chaos rose,
he is Alpha: from that Fountain,
all that is and hath been flows;
he is Omega, of all things
yet to come the mystic Close,
evermore and evermore.**
- 2 By his word was all created;
he commanded and 'twas done;
earth and sky and boundless ocean,
universe of three in one,
all that sees the moon's soft radiance,
all that breathes beneath the sun,
evermore and evermore.**

continued...

- 3 He assumed this mortal body,
frail and feeble, doomed to die,
that the race from dust created
might not perish utterly,
which the dreadful Law had sentenced
in the depths of hell to lie,
evermore and evermore.
- 4 This is he, whom seer and sybil
sang in ages long gone by;
this is he of old revealed
in the page of prophecy;
lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;
let the world his praises cry!
evermore and evermore.
- 5 Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;
Angels and Archangels, sing!
wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
let your joyous anthems ring,
every tongue his name confessing,
countless voices answering,
evermore and evermore.

Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-c.410) tr. Robert Furley Davis (1866-1937)

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

Organ Voluntary

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

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St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London, WC2N 4JJ 020 7766 1100 www.smitf.org December 2024