



Sunday 17 November 2024, 10am  
The Second Sunday Before Advent

# The Eucharist

## Safeguarding Sunday

Presider  
Revd Richard Carter

Preacher  
Revd Dr Sam Wells

The Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields

Directed by  
Jennifer Sterling

Organist  
Phoebe Tak Man Chow

Mass Setting  
Little Organ Mass *Haydn*

⊕ 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Extol the God of justice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
remember all his wonders,  
recount them and rejoice.  
He stands with all who labour  
for what is true and right,  
till wickedness and falsehood  
are banished from his sight.**
- 2 Extol the God of justice  
enthroned for evermore,  
a stronghold in affliction,  
a refuge to the poor:  
he hears the cry of victims  
and senses their despair;  
in faithfulness he honours  
the faith that sparks our prayer.**

*continued...*

**3 Extol the God of justice,  
however dark the day:  
the hope that calls for mercy  
will not be turned away;  
for evil shall not triumph,  
nor human sin prevail:  
the Lord is God eternal,  
whose judgements cannot fail.**

*Martin Leckebusch (b. 1962) based on Psalm 9*

*Please sit or kneel.*

### Confession

God, you have called us into freedom, but we confess we have not always used that freedom rightly.

*Silence is kept.*

You made your church to be place of safety and refuge, yet people have been hurt and harmed.

Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

You call your church be a voice for the voiceless and the oppressed, yet we have remained silent and not spoken out about injustice.

Christ, have mercy.

*All* **Christ, have mercy.**

You send your church to be an example of love to the world, yet we have been selfish and not shown love to those who are hurting.

Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ gave us the perfect example of love and compassion; forgive us our sins, open our eyes to your truth, open our hearts to your justice strengthen us to do your will, and make us, your church, a place of safety and refuge for all, 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 *sung by the choir*

Collect

God of compassion, our refuge and strength, defender of the weak, the weary, and the oppressed, open your arms to your children who come to you with humble and thankful hearts. You call us to be like you, to speak up for all who are vulnerable. Make this community a place of safety for all. Open our ears to listen to those who are hurting, to learn from Jesus' example, and to love one another as you first loved us. In Christ your beloved Son our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

*Please sit.*

## The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Psalm 91: 1-4 *read by Kristine Wellington,  
Safeguarding Officer*

You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.' For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence; he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

Hear the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading Ephesians 5: 8-13 *read by Sherry Taylor,  
Safeguarding Lead*

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible.

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 **We cannot measure how you heal  
or answer every sufferer's prayer,  
yet we believe your grace responds  
where faith and doubt unite to care.  
Your hands, though bloodied on the cross,  
survive to hold and heal and warn,  
to carry all through death to life  
and cradle children yet unborn.**
  
- 2 **The pain that will not go away,  
the guilt that clings from things long past,  
the fear of what the future holds,  
are present as if meant to last.  
But present too is love which tends  
the hurt we never hoped to find,  
the private agonies inside,  
the memories that haunt the mind.**

*continued after Gospel reading*

## Gospel Reading Mark 13: 1-8

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

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

As Jesus came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, 'Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!' Then Jesus asked him, 'Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.'

When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, 'Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?' Then Jesus began to say to them, 'Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn *continued*

- 3 **So some have come who need your help,  
and some have come to make amends,  
as hands which shaped and saved the world  
are present in the touch of friends.  
Lord, let your Spirit meet us here  
to mend the body, mind and soul,  
to disentangle peace from pain  
and make your broken people whole.**

*John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (1958-2019)*

*Please sit after the opening prayer.*

Sermon Revd Dr Sam Wells

Anthem I give to you a new commandment *Peter Nardone*

I give to you a new commandment, a new commandment I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you. Amen.

*John 13: 34-45 and Liber Usualis*

*Please stand.*

### An Act of Commitment

As the people of God, we are called to follow in the way of Christ, to walk humbly and love mercy, and to speak up about injustice so that the church may be a place of safety and refuge for all. In acknowledging the role we all have in making our churches safer places, let us join together and pledge our commitment before almighty God:

Will you treat everyone with respect and dignity and seek to never knowingly hurt or harm others by what you do, or say?

*All* **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you actively support the work of safeguarding in this church?

*All* **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you support the Safeguarding Lead and all those who have safeguarding responsibilities?

*All* **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you use your voice to speak up about the injustice of abuse?

*All* **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you make space to listen to those who have been hurt and harmed in our community?

*All* **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you commit to never knowingly hide or keep quiet about abuse that you know of or suspect?

*All* **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you call on the wider church to take steps towards change in this area?

*All* **With the help of God, I will.**

May the God in whom we trust, strengthen this commitment within us that we may truly be a place of safety and refuge for all.

*All* **Amen.**

*Please sit or kneel.*

Prayers of Intercession *led by Neil MacGregor*

*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

*All* The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**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** Inspired by love and anger, disturbed by need and pain,  
informed of God's own bias, we ask him once again:  
**'How long must some folk suffer? How long can few folk mind?  
How long dare vain self-interest turn prayer and pity blind?'**
- 2** From those forever victims of heartless human greed,  
their cruel plight composes a litany of need:  
**'Where are the fruits of justice? Where are the signs of peace?  
When is the day when prisoners and dreams find their release?'**
- 3** From those forever shackled to what their wealth can buy,  
the fear of lost advantage provokes the bitter cry,  
**'Don't query our position! Don't criticise our wealth!  
Don't mention those exploited by politics and stealth!'**
- 4** To God, who through the prophets proclaimed a different age,  
we offer earth's indifference, its agony and rage:  
**'When will the wrong be righted? When will the kingdom come?  
When will the world be generous to all instead of some?'**
- 5** God asks, **'Who will go for me? Who will extend my reach?  
And who, when few will follow, will prophesy and preach?  
And who, when few bid welcome, will offer all they know?  
And who, when few dare follow, will walk the road I show?'**

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

- 6** Amused in someone's kitchen, asleep in someone's boat,  
attuned to what the ancients exposed, proclaimed and wrote,  
a saviour without safety, a tradesman without tools  
has come to tip the balance with fishermen and fools.

*John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (1958-2019)*

## 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:*

You, Lord, have given us so much, and we return this little to you as a sign of our gratitude and hope. Take what little we give and make it much in your kingdom.

*All* **Amen.**

### 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.**

We lift our hearts to you in praise and thanksgiving, faithful God, because in your generosity you created all things in overflowing plenty, in love you called the children of Abraham to be your companions, in covenant goodness you sent prophets to restore their life, and in grace you sent your Son to redeem the past and embody our future in you. In his crucifixion we see the worst that we can do, yet in his resurrection we behold your will and your power to make sin and death the threshold of everlasting life in you. And so we gladly thank you, with saints and angels, singing the praise of your glory.

Sanctus and Benedictus *sung by the choir*

God of destiny and coming joy, you have prepared for those who love you such things as pass our understanding. As wheat and grapes reach their fulfilment in bread and wine, so we your children await the day when you will turn us from faltering followers into faithful friends. Bless your church in the power of your Spirit that it may be made ready to meet you in glory. 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.**

God of glory, you promise the day when the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. Bless those among your children yearning for that healing today. Where your people are sick in body, bring them the comfort of medicine, of care, and of kindness. Where they are uneasy in mind, give them companions, courage, and hope. Where they are troubled in spirit, surround them with love, and gentleness, and tender understanding. Hasten the day when the sun of your righteousness shall rise, and your groaning creation shall bask in its splendour, redeeming and transforming God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*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

In the broken body of Christ we find our peace with God.  
*All* **Lord, unite us in this sign.**

*Agnus Dei sung by the choir*

### Giving of Communion

Come, enter the broken heart of God.

*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 If ye love me *Tallis*

If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another comforter, that he may 'bide with you forever; e'en the spirit of truth.

*John 14: 15-17*

*Silence is kept.*

### Prayer after Communion

Lord, make us people who demonstrate our faith through the way we love and care for one another. Give us grace as we work to make our church a safe place for all. Give us the courage to follow Christ's example and to love as he first loved us.

*All* **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 Dear Lord and Father of us all,  
forgive our foolish ways;  
from wayward paths our minds recall,  
let purer thoughts our souls enthrall,  
more rev'rent lips sing praise.**
- 2 In simple trust like theirs who heard  
beside the Syrian sea,  
the gracious calling of the Lord,  
let us, like them, without a word,  
rise up and follow thee.**
- 3 Drop thy still dews of quietness,  
till all our strivings cease;  
take from our souls the strain and stress,  
and let our ordered lives confess  
the beauty of thy peace.**
- 4 Breathe through the heats of our desire  
thy coolness and thy balm;  
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,  
O still small voice of calm.**

*John Greenleaf Whittier (1807–1892)*

## 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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