



Sunday 22 December 2024, 10.00am  
Fourth Sunday of Advent

# The Eucharist

Presider  
Revd Dr Sam Wells

Preacher  
Revd Angela Sheard

The Choir of the Chinese  
Congregation and Community Choir

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 monthly on Sunday afternoons.

**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 of no professed faith 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 **O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting Light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.**
- 2 **O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to all on earth;  
for Christ is born of Mary;  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.**
- 3 **How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
so God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.**

*continued...*

4 O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell:  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel.

*Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)*

*Please sit or kneel.*

### Confession

God comes to meet us in the gift of Jesus, yet we turn away. Let us confess the ways that we've rejected God's goodness.

*Silence is kept.*

You draw close to us in the events and struggles of our lives, and your voice assures us that we are loved and favoured; but we don't listen.

Lord, have mercy.

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

You invite us to magnify your love; but we turn away from those in need.

Christ, have mercy.

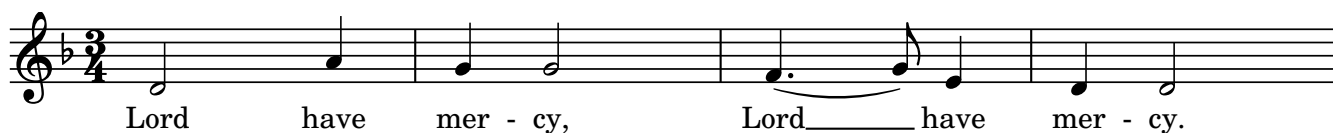
*All* **Christ, have mercy.**

You promise that nothing is impossible with you; but we lose faith and avoid trusting you.

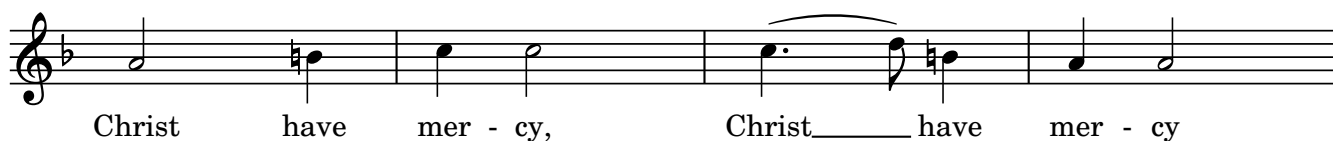
Lord, have mercy.

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

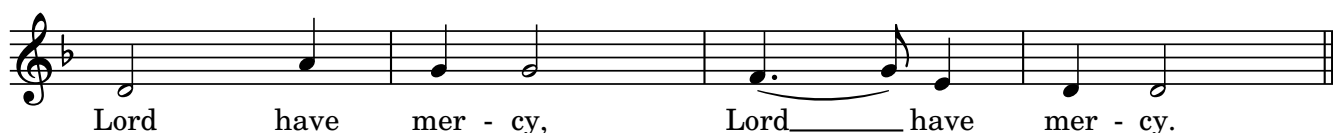
*We sing together*



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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.**

*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.*

## Magnificat Taizé

Magnificat anima mea Dominum. *My soul doth magnify the Lord.*

*From the Magnificat, Luke 1: 46-55*

## Collect

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; 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 Micah 5: 2-5a *read by Eddie Grove*

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Hear the word of the Lord

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

Second Reading Hebrews 10: 5-10 *read by Phyllis SantaMaria*

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt-offerings and sin-offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).' When he said above, 'You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt-offerings and sin-offerings' (these are offered according to the law), then he added, 'See, I have come to do your will.' He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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 The Angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
'All hail', said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!**

*continued...*

**2** 'For known a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honour thee,  
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold;  
most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

**3** Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
'To me be as it pleaseth God', she said,  
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name':  
most highly favoured lady. Gloria!

*continued after Gospel reading*

Gospel Reading Luke 1: 39-45

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

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

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn *continued*

**4** Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born  
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,  
'Most highly favoured lady.' Gloria!

*Birjina gaztetto bat zegoen (Basque Carol), para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)*

*Please sit.*

Sermon Revd Angela Sheard

Anthem Sans Day Carol *Trad. arr. Hunt*

Now the holly bears a berry as white as the milk, and Mary bore Jesus, who was wrapped up in silk: *And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be, and the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly. Holly! Holly! And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly!* Now the holly bears a berry as green as the grass, and Mary bore Jesus, who died on the cross. *Chorus* Now the holly bears a berry as black as the coal, and Mary bore Jesus, who died for us all. *Chorus* Now the holly bears a berry, as blood is it red, then trust we our Saviour, who rose from the dead. *Chorus*

*Traditional Cornish carol*

*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 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

*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 **See amid the winter's snow,  
born for us on earth below,  
see the Lamb of God appears,  
promised from eternal years.  
*Hail, thou ever-blessèd morn!  
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem!***
  
- 2 **Lo, within a manger lies  
he who built the starry skies,  
he who, throned in height sublime,  
sits amid the cherubim.  
*Chorus***
  
- 3 **Say, ye holy shepherds, say,  
what your joyful news today;  
wherefore have ye left your sheep  
on the lonely mountain steep?  
*Chorus***
  
- 4 **'As we watched at dead of night,  
lo, we saw a wondrous light:  
angels, singing "Peace on earth,"  
told us of the Saviour's birth.'  
*Chorus***

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

- 5 **Sacred Infant, all divine,  
what a tender love was thine,  
thus to come from highest bliss  
down to such a world as this.  
*Chorus***

*Edward Caswall (1814-1878)*

## 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.**

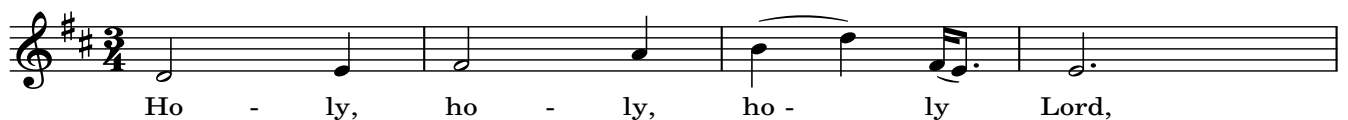
## Eucharistic Prayer

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.**

It is a good and joyful thing to give thanks to you, Lord God of hosts, O ancient of days, for from of old you have called forth life. You brought into being every detail of creation and gave birth to your covenant people. When the time drew near, you called upon Bethlehem to bear the hope you promised, and summoned Mary to bear your holy child. By your grace the child grew to be the one to bear not only our sins but the sins of the world. In his dying and rising you gave birth to everlasting life for all your children. And so with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we sing your praise and join the unending hymn.



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29



God of Mary, whose womb bore the sacred fruit of our salvation, bring forth from this fruit of the vine your cup of blessing. As we remember around this table your Son's saving passion poured out for us, send your Holy Spirit upon your church to make us bearers of your Christ, your mercy, and your hope. Sanctify this bread and cup that they may be for us the body and blood of Jesus our Lord. 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 holy expectation, let your face shine upon us and your dawn break upon us that we may be saved. Make your church expectant in faith as we labour for what we cannot yet see. Come and dwell with your people who yearn to be restored, to be forgiven, to belong. Let the warmth of your face shine upon those who seek the peace long promised for Bethlehem, for Jerusalem, and for all your waiting world. Bring us, with the saints who have looked for your coming, to the day when we and all your children shall celebrate and leap for joy in your holy presence, one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*All* **Amen.**

*Please sit or kneel.*

## The 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

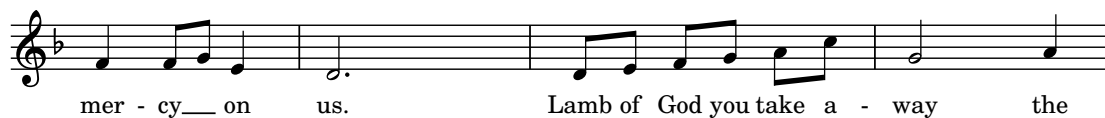
We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

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

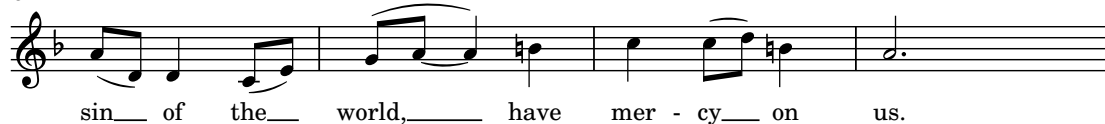
## Agnes Dei



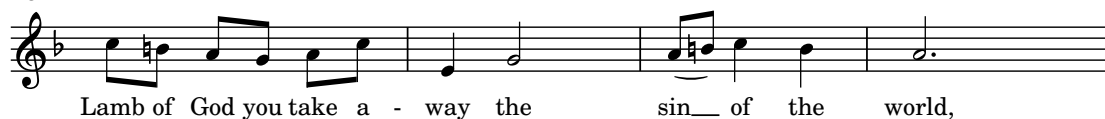
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17



## Giving of Communion

The living bread, broken for the life of the world.

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

*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 Christmas Lullaby *John Rutter*

Clear in the darkness a light shines in Bethlehem: angels are singing, their sound fills the air. Wise men have journeyed to greet their Messiah; but only a mother and baby lie there. 'Ave Maria, ave Maria': *hear the soft lullaby the angel hosts sing. 'Ave Maria, ave Maria, Maiden, and mother of Jesus our King'*. Where are his courtiers, and who are his people? Why does he bear neither sceptre nor crown? Shepherd his courtiers, the poor for his people, with peace as his sceptre and love for his crown. *Chorus* What though your treasures are not gold or incense? Lay them before him with hearts full of love. Praise to the Christ child and praise to his mother who bore us a Saviour by grace from above. *Chorus*

*John Rutter (b. 1945)*

*Silence is kept.*

## Prayer after Communion

**All Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## The Dismissal

Notices

*Please stand.*

## Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; 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 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**
- 2 Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!  
Let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**
- 3 He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

*Isaac Watts (1674–1748)*

## 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.*

## **Advent and Christmas at St Martin's**

### **Tuesday 24 December, Christmas Eve**

1.00pm Crib Service  
3.30pm Parish Carol Service  
5.30pm Parish Carol Service  
11.00pm Midnight Mass

### **Wednesday 25 December, Christmas Day**

10.30am Christmas Day Eucharist

### **Sunday 12 January**

5.00pm Epiphany Carols

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