



Sunday 29 December 2024, 10am
The First Sunday of Christmas

The Eucharist

Presider and Preacher
Revd Richard Carter

Organist
Phoebe Tak Man Chow

Mass 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 monthly on Sunday afternoons.

Welcome to anyone in need of safeguarding. If you would like to reach our safeguarding team, you can email safeguarding@smif.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@smif.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 In the bleak mid-winter,
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak mid-winter,
long ago.**
- 2 Our God, heaven cannot hold him,
nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign:
in the bleak mid-winter
a stable-place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.**
- 3 Angels and archangels
may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim
throngèd the air;
but only his mother
in her maiden bliss,
worshipped the belovèd
with a kiss.**

continued...

4 **What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man,
I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him,
give my heart.**

Christina Georgina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Please sit or kneel.

Confession

The sun of righteousness has dawned with healing in his wings. Let us come to the light of Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Silence is kept.

The Virgin Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus. Forgive our disobedience to your will.

We have sinned:

All **forgive and heal us.**

Your Son our Saviour was born in poverty in a manger. Forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

We have sinned:

All **forgive and heal us.**

The shepherds left their flocks to go to Bethlehem. Forgive our self-interest and lack of vision.

We have sinned:

All **forgive and heal us.**

The wise men followed the star to find Jesus the King. Forgive our reluctance to seek you.

We have sinned:

All **forgive and heal us.**

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

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

Almighty God, who wonderfully created us in your own image and yet more wonderfully restored us through your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as he came to share in our humanity, so we may share the life of his divinity; 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 1 Samuel 2: 18-20, 26 *read by Ivan Yuen*

Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, 'May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord'; and then they would return to their home. Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favour with the Lord and with the people.

Hear the word of the Lord

All **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading Colossians 3: 12-17 *read by Wendy Quill*

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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 A great and mighty wonder,
a full and holy cure!
The Virgin bears the Infant
with virgin-honour pure.
*Repeat the hymn again:
'To God on high be glory,
and peace on earth shall reign.'***

**2 The Word becomes incarnate
and yet remains on high;
and cherubim sing anthems
to shepherds from the sky.
*Chorus***

continued after Gospel reading

Gospel Reading Luke 2: 41-end

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

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

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travellers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, 'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn *continued*

- 3** Since all he comes to ransom,
by all be he adored,
the Infant born in Bethl'em,
the Saviour and the Lord.
Repeat the hymn again:
'To God on high be glory,
and peace on earth shall reign.'

Mega Kai paradoxon thauma, St Germanus (c.639-c.734) tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

Please sit after the opening prayer.

Sermon Revd Richard Carter

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 Fiona MacMillan*

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

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince 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** O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the King of angels:
*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*
- 2** God of God,
Light of Light,
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God,
begotten, not created:
Chorus
- 3** Child, for us sinners
poor and in the manger,
fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;
who would not love thee,
loving us so dearly?
Chorus
- 4** Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
'Glory to God
in the highest:'
Chorus

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

continued...

5 **Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born that happy morning;
Jesu, to thee be glory given:
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:
*Chorus***

Adeste, fideles, Latin, 18th century, tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others

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:

As the grain once scattered in the fields and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside are now reunited on this table in bread and wine, so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together from the corners of the earth into your kingdom.

All **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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

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

God of grace and truth we lift our hearts to you in thanks and praise, because before all things began you shaped your life to be with us in Christ. In the sacred temple of Jerusalem you gave your people a way to be close to you and an invitation to be restored in relationship with one another and with you. In Jesus you came into that temple and became the very place of encounter between yourself and your people. When his parents did not know how to find their son and yours, they discovered his purpose was to be the person and place through whom all people would find their destiny in you. In Christ's death and resurrection you show us the cost of our being utterly lost and the glory of your finding us and bringing us home forever. And so with glad and joyful hearts we join the company of heaven in the song of your never-ending 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.

Generous God, your Son Jesus Christ became the sacrifice that restored our covenant with you, and his resurrection unveiled for us the wonder of everlasting life. Send down your Holy Spirit upon those who gather in your name. Let your Son's peace rule in our hearts and his word and wisdom dwell in us richly. Sanctify this bread and cup that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son. 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.**

Astonishing God, your servant Mary treasured your wondrous deeds in her heart. Be close to any who wander in search of a loved one, a purpose in life, or a place to call home. Surround your faithful with good teachers and give your church good questions to ask. Walk with those for whom resentment or regret about the past inhibits flourishing life in the present: by the power of your Spirit, let your truth set us free. Open our eyes to the joy of your love and the wisdom of your grace in the eyes of a child, until together with all your sons and daughters in your eternal kingdom we behold you face to face, one 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.

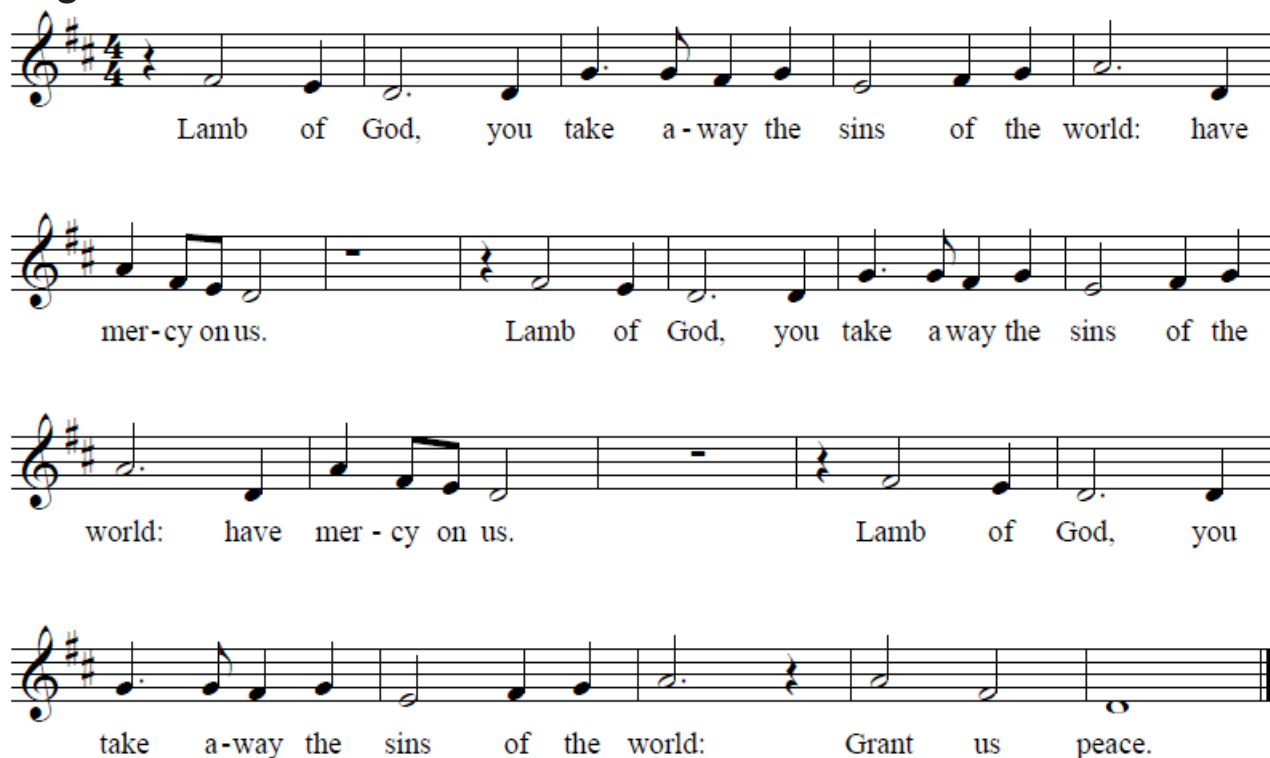
All **Our Father in heaven,**
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

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

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All **Lord I am not worthy to receive you but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

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.

Silence is kept.

Prayer after Communion

All **Eternal God, we thank you that in Christ you give yourself into our hands: may we who have tasted life proclaim the coming feast when many will come from east and west, from north and south to greet the Lord of all; we ask this in his name. Amen.**

The Dismissal

Notices

Please stand.

Blessing

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Thanksgiving Hymn

- 1 **Angel-voices ever singing
round thy throne of light,
angel-harps for ever ringing,
rest not day nor night;
thousands only live to bless thee
and confess thee
Lord of might.**
- 2 **Thou who art beyond the farthest
mortal eye can see,
can it be that thou regardest
our poor hymnody?
Yes, we know that thou art near us,
and wilt hear us?
Constantly.**
- 3 **Honour, glory, might, and merit
thine shall ever be,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
blessed Trinity.
Of the best that thou hast given
earth and heaven
render thee.**

Francis Pott (1832-1909)

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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