



Sunday 8 December 2024, 10.00am
The Second Sunday of Advent

The Eucharist

Presider
Revd Richard Carter

Preacher
Revd Angela Sheard

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 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.

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 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 Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown:
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art,
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.**
- 2 Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above;
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.**

continued...

3 **Finish then thy new creation:
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee;
Changed from glory into glory
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Please sit or kneel.

Confession

A voice cries out in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make a straight path. Let us keep silence as we hold our lives open before God, asking for forgiveness and peace.

Silence is kept.

We have failed in our love for you.

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

We have failed to love our neighbour as ourselves.

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

We stand so much in need of your forgiveness and peace.

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

We sing together

Lord have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy.

5

Christ have mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy.

9

Lord have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy.

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.

Advent Prose

Pour down, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness. Turn your fierce anger from us, O Lord, and remember not our sins forever. Your holy cities have become a desert, Zion a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation; our holy and beautiful house, where our ancestors praised you. Refrain We have sinned and become like one who is unclean; we have all withered like a leaf, and our iniquities like the wind have swept us away. You have hidden your face from us, and abandoned us to our iniquities. Refrain

Collect

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Malachi 3: 1-4 *read by Mel Adams*

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi

and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Hear the word of the Lord

All **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading Philippians 1: 3-11 *read by Dan Kaszeta*

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free,
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.**
- 2 Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.**
- 3 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

continued after Gospel reading

Gospel Reading Luke 3: 1-6

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

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

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."' "

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn *continued*

4 **By thy own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thy all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Please sit after the opening prayer.

Sermon Revd Angela Sheard

Anthem O radiant dawn *James MacMillan*

O radiant dawn, splendour of eternal light, sun of justice: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. Isaiah had prophesied, 'The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.' Amen.

Antiphon for 21 December

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 Wendy Quill*

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 Hills of the North, rejoice,
river and mountain—spring,
hark to the advent voice;
valley and lowland, sing.
Christ comes in righteousness and love,
he brings salvation from above.**

continued...

- 2 Isles of the Southern seas,
sing to the listening earth,
carry on every breeze
hope of a world's new birth:
in Christ shall all be made anew,
his word is sure, his promise true.**
- 3 Lands of the East, arise,
he is your brightest morn,
greet him with joyous eyes,
praise shall his path adorn:
your seers have longed to know their Lord;
to you he comes, the final word.**
- 4 Shores of the utmost West,
lands of the setting sun,
welcome the heavenly guest
in whom the dawn has come:
he brings a never-ending light
who triumphed o'er our darkest night.**

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

- 5 Shout, as you journey home,
songs be in every mouth,
lo, from the North they come,
from East and West and South:
in Jesus all shall find their rest,
in him the universe be blest.**

Editors of English Praise (1975) based on Charles Ernest Oakley (1832-1865)

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:

Let us prepare the way of the Lord.

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

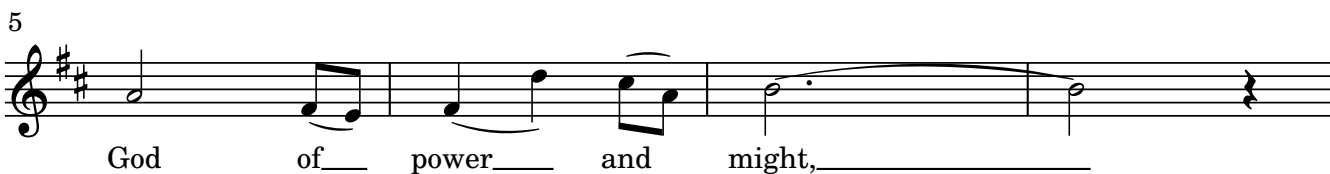
Lift up your hearts.

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.**

Blessed be your name, Lord God of time and eternity, for you have come to your people and set them free. You have spoken through the mouth of holy prophets and remembered your covenant of old. You have prepared the way of our salvation by raising up a mighty Saviour from the house of your servant David. Your Son Jesus took upon himself on the cross the cost of our sin, and through him you revealed the fullness of your promise of mercy. In his resurrection you gave us knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of our sins that we might serve you without fear in holiness and righteousness all our days. And so with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we join the unending hymn.



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 the future and the past, you promised all flesh shall see your salvation: show us the salvation you bring through the flesh and blood of your only Son. As your prophets heralded his saving glory, sanctify your church for his promised coming. Send your Holy Spirit upon this bread and cup that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ 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.

Refining Spirit, you burn away all that does not endure your presence. Reveal your mercy in the very crucible of your love. Protect your sons and daughters who are facing a crucible of trial or temptation or testing, and amidst the suffering of your children reveal your eternal grace. Refine and strengthen the hope of your church through every adversity and every danger. Set the hearts of your people on fire to seek your justice and share your mercy; until your dawn from on high breaks upon us, and on the day of your coming we stand clothed in the righteousness of your Son, in the presence of the Father, by the refining power of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
All **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

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.

Communion Anthem How lovely are the messengers *Mendelssohn*

How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace. To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words, throughout all the lands their glad tidings.

Romans 10: 15, 18

Silence is kept.

Prayer after Communion

All **Father in heaven, who sent your Son to redeem the world and will send him again to be our judge: give us grace so to imitate him in the humility and purity of his first coming that, when he comes again, we may be ready to greet him with joyful love and firm faith; 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 In Christ there is no East or West,
in him no South or North,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.**
- 2 In him shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord,
close binding humankind.**
- 3 Join hands, then, children of the faith,
whate'er your race may be;
who serves my Father as his child
is surely kin to me.**

continued...

**4 In Christ now meet both East and West,
in him meet South and North,
all Christlike souls are one in him,
throughout the whole wide earth.**

John Oxenham, (William Arthur Dunkerley) (1852-1941)

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
Please join us in the church or online for

Today

5.00pm Blessing of the Crib in Trafalgar Square

Wednesday 11 December

6.30pm A Carol Service for the Community

Sunday 15 December

4.00pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

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