



Sunday 5 January 2025, 10am  
The Epiphany

# The Eucharist

Presider  
Revd Angela Sheard

Preacher  
Revd Dr Sam Wells

Soloist  
Natalie Houlston

Organist  
Phoebe Tak Man Chow

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](mailto: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](mailto: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 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;  
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,  
kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name.**
- 2 Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,  
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,  
comfort thy sorrows, and answer thy prayerfulness,  
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.**
- 3 Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness  
of the poor wealth thou wouldst reckon as thine:  
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,  
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.**
- 4 These, though we bring them in trembling and fearfulness,  
he will accept for the name that is dear;  
mornings of joy give for evenings of tearfulness,  
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.**
- 5 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;  
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;  
with gold of obedience, and incense of lowliness,  
kneel and adore him, the Lord is his name.**

*John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1811-1875)*

*Please sit or kneel.*

## Confession

The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own. Let us confess our sins.

*Silence is kept.*

The Magi gave gold: but we keep our gold in selfishness and hoard it in greed.

Lord, have mercy

*All* **Lord, have mercy**

The Magi brought frankincense: but we turn aside from holiness and truth.

Christ, have mercy

*All* **Christ, have mercy**

The Magi brought myrrh: but we forget our creatureliness and destroy the earth.

Lord, have mercy

*All* **Lord, have mercy**

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 stand.*

Gloria in Excelsis *opposite*

## Collect

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

*Please sit.*

# 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 - mighty 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.

# The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading 1 John 3: 22—4: 6 *read by Julian Templeman*

We receive from God whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. And this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming; and now it is already in the world. Little children, you are from God, and have conquered them; for the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore what they say is from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us, and whoever is not from God does not listen to us. From this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

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 As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold,  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright;  
so, most gracious Lord, may we  
evermore be led to thee.**

*continued...*

**2 As with joyful steps they sped,  
Saviour, to thy lowly bed,  
there to bend the knee before  
thee whom heaven and earth adore;  
so may we with willing feet  
ever seek thy mercy-seat.**

**3 As they offered gifts most rare  
at thy cradle rude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to thee, our heavenly King.**

*continued after Gospel reading...*

Gospel Reading Matthew 4: 12-17, 23-end

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

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

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: 'Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.' From that time Jesus began to proclaim, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought to him all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and he cured them. And great crowds followed him from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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



Hymn *continued*

- 4 **Holy Jesus, every day  
keep us in the narrow way,  
and, when earthly things are past,  
bring our ransomed souls at last  
where they need no star to guide,  
where no clouds thy glory hide.**
- 5 **In the heavenly country bright  
need they no created light;  
thou its light, its joy, its crown,  
thou its sun which goes not down;  
there for ever may we sing  
alleluias to our King.**

*William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)*

*Please sit after the opening prayer.*

Sermon Revd Dr Sam Wells

Anthem A New Year Carol *Britten*

Here we bring new water from the well so clear, for to worship God with, this happy new year. *Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine; the seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.* Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her toe, open you the west door, and turn the old go. *Sing levy dew...* Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her chin, open you the east door, and let the new year in. *Sing levy dew...*

*Anon.*

*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 Jim Sikorski*

*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 We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star:  
*O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.***
- 2 Born a king on Bethlehem plain,  
gold I bring to crown him again,  
king for ever, ceasing never,  
over us all to reign:  
*Chorus***
- 3 Frankincense to offer have I;  
incense owns a deity nigh:  
prayer and praising, gladly raising,  
worship him, God most high:  
*Chorus***

*continued...*

**4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb:  
*Chorus***

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

**5 Glorious now behold him arise,  
king and God, and sacrifice.  
Heaven sings: 'Alleluia';  
'Alleluia,' the earth replies:  
*Chorus***

*Edward John Hopkins (1818-1901)*

## 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:*

Lord, accept your people's gifts, not gold, frankincense or myrrh, but hearts and voices raised in praise of Jesus Christ, our light and our salvation.

*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.**

Revealing God you send the light of a star, and in that light we see the truth of who you are and the truth of who we are. Like the magi you call us to worship you, but like the magi we mistake where you truly belong and where we truly belong. Yet in revelation you direct us to yourself and in incarnation you meet us in yourself. You become what we are that we might become what you are. And so you draw us to the company where your angels gather around your eternal throne singing their hymn of unending praise.

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.

As the magi brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, so we bring these gifts of bread and wine. In those gifts we see your grief at the way we crucified your Son, the holy one among us, but also the wonder of how you raised him to be our king in glory forever. Send down your Holy Spirit, that we may discover what it means to be of you and in you, and that this bread of honest toil and this wine of joyous celebration may be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. 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.**

As the magi brought gold, bring your whole church, living and departed, to the vision of your glory. As the magi brought frankincense, infuse all who seek you with the beauty of your holiness. As the magi brought myrrh, embrace all who suffer until the time comes when you flood the whole creation with justice and mercy. In this banquet restore us in your image, surround us with your company, and prepare us for your freedom; that we may come to resemble your Son, through whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, 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

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.*

## Communion Anthem The Holy Boy *Ireland*

Lowly, laid in a manger, with oxen brooding nigh, the heav'nly babe is lying his Maiden Mother by. Lo! The way-faring sages, who journey'd far through the wild, now worship, silent adoring, the boy, the heav'nly child. Leave your work and your playtime, and kneel in homage and prayer, the Prince of Love is smiling asleep in his cradle there! Bend your hearts to the wonder, the birth, the mystery mild, and worship, silent adoring, the boy, the heav'nly child. Dim the light of the lantern, and bare the mean abode, yet gold and myrrh and incense proclaim the Son of God. Lowly laid in a manger by Virgin undefiled, come worship, silent, adoring, the boy, the heav'nly child.

*Herbert S. Brown (1872-1923)*

*Silence is kept.*

## Prayer after Communion

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

# The Dismissal

## Notices

*Please stand.*

## Blessing

Christ our Lord, to whom kings bowed down in worship and offered gifts, reveal to you his glory and pour upon you the riches of his grace; and the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**

## Thanksgiving Hymn

- 1 Hail to the Lord's Anointed,  
great David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed,  
his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
to set the captive free,  
to take away transgression,  
and rule in equity.**
- 2 He comes with succour speedy,  
to those who suffer wrong;  
to help the poor and needy,  
and bid the weak be strong;  
to give them songs for sighing,  
their darkness turn to light,  
whose souls, condemned and dying,  
were precious in his sight.**
- 3 He shall come down like showers  
upon the fruitful earth;  
and love, joy, hope, like flowers,  
spring in his path to birth;  
before him on the mountains,  
shall peace, the herald, go;  
and righteousness in fountains,  
from hill to valley flow.**

*continued...*



**4 Kings shall bow down before him,  
and gold and incense bring;  
all nations shall adore him,  
his praise all people sing;  
to him shall prayer unceasing  
and daily vows ascend,  
his kingdom still increasing,  
a kingdom without end.**

*James Montgomery (1771-1854)*

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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