



Sunday 12 January 2025, 10am
Baptism of Christ

The Eucharist

Presider and Preacher
Revd Richard Carter

with the baptism of
Tamara Lilly Kengongi Gumisiriza

The Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields

Directed by
Jennifer Sterling

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.

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

Introit 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 for ever; e'en the spirit of truth.

John 14:15–17

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 **Come down, O Love divine,
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.**
- 2 **O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes, in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.**
- 3 **Let holy charity
mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart,
which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.**

continued...

**4 And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace,
till he become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.**

Discendi, amor santo; Bianco da Siena (d. 1434), tr. Richard Frederick Littledale (1833-1890)

Please sit.

Introduction Revd Richard Carter

Baptism is the end of the old life we live for ourselves, and the beginning of the new life we live with God. When Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt, God parted the sea and led them to freedom. All that held them in slavery was left behind. Christ's death on Good Friday echoes the Israelites' descent into the sea. In raising Jesus from the tomb, the Holy Spirit brings him out of the sea, taking him beyond sin and death. When we are baptised, God brings these stories to life in us. God takes away the power of all that oppresses us, and we are born again in the Spirit. We are made members of Christ's body, that we may share his sufferings and inherit his glory. We begin a life of service, to God, one another and the good creation. We join a new family, everlasting and universal: the communion of saints.

Prayer

All Father God, in your love you have called us to know you, led us to trust you, and bound our life with yours. Surround us with your love; protect us from evil; fill us with your Holy Spirit; and restore us in the family of your Church; that we may walk in the way of Christ and grow in the knowledge of your love. Amen.

The parents and godparents gather at the legillum.

Presentation

Faith is the Holy Spirit's gift to the people of God. Will you, God's people, welcome Tamara Lilly Kengongi and uphold her in her new life in Christ?

All With God's help, we will.

Parents and godparents, will you pray for Tamara Lilly Kengongi, draw her into the community of faith, help her take her place in the life and worship of the Church, and walk with her in the way of Christ?
With God's help, we will.

Making Our Decision to Follow Christ

To the parents and godparents

Baptism means turning from the despair of sin to the hope of Christ. I now ask you three times if you are resolved to turn from death to life.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour, Lord and Friend?

I turn to Christ.

Do you repent of all your sins?

I repent of all my sins.

Do you renounce evil?

I renounce evil.

Please stand.

The Baptism party goes to the font during the chant. Children and other members of the congregation are invited to join them.

Baptism Anthem Think of how God loves you *James MacMillan*

Think of how God loves you! He calls you his own children, and that is what you are. You have put on Christ; in him you have been baptised. Alleluia!

Baptismal song, 1 John 3: 1 and from the baptismal rite

Renewing the Outward Sign of Inward Faith

We thank you, gracious God, for your gifts of water and the Holy Spirit. We thank you that, through the waters of the Red Sea, you led your people out of slavery to freedom in the Promised Land. We thank you that out of death you raised your Son to glorious life. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this water, that as we recall our burial with Christ in baptism, we may share with the saints in his resurrection to new life; that, having been born again of water and the Holy Spirit, we may remain forever in the number of your faithful children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

To the parents and godparents and to the whole congregation
Now I ask you to make the profession of Christian faith into which we are baptised, and in which we live and grow.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

All I believe and trust in God the Father.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

All I believe and trust in God the Son.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God, and makes Christ known in the world?

All I believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit.

This is the faith of the Church.

All This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Tamara Lilly Kengongi, for you Jesus Christ came into the world. For you he lived and showed God's love. For you he suffered the darkness of Calvary, and cried at the last, 'It is accomplished'. For you he triumphed over death, and rose to new life. For you he reigns at God's right hand. All this he did to be with you, though you do not know it yet.

Baptism

Tamara Lilly Kengongi, I baptise you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Signing

The minister makes the sign of the cross on the candidate for baptism with holy oil.

Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of the cross.

The minister invites the parents and godparents to sign the candidate with the cross.

All the leaders of God's people, prophets, priests and kings, were anointed at the start of their ministry. Jesus also, who was Israel's prophet, priest and king, was baptised by John at the start of his ministry. This is the start of a new ministry. Tamara Lilly Kengongi, we anoint you with holy oil, making the sign of the cross, the seal of salvation.

All Teach us, Lord, to serve you as you deserve; to give, and not to count the cost; to fight, and not to heed the wounds; to toil, and not to seek for rest; to labour, and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do your will. Amen.

A Prayer of St Ignatius Loyola

Welcome

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism: Tamara Lilly Kengongi, by one Spirit we are all baptised into one body.

All We welcome you into the Lord's family. We are members together of the body of Christ; we are children of the same heavenly Father; we are inheritors together of the realm of God. We welcome you.

Giving of Light

God has delivered from the shadows of night into the realm of glorious day. You have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life.

All Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.

Children gather at the north east door during the following anthem to go to Children's Church.

Baptism Anthem Think of how God loves you *James MacMillan*

Please stand and turn to face the Gospel in the centre aisle.

The Liturgy of the Word

Gospel Reading Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptise you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals.

He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.' Now

when all the people were baptised, and when Jesus also had been baptised and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please sit after the opening prayer.

Sermon Revd Richard Carter

Anthem God's gonna set this world on fire *Arr. Moses Hogan and Edwin B. Hogan*

God's gonna set this world on fire one of these days, Hallelujah. I'm gonna sit at the welcome table one of these days, Hallelujah. I'm gonna eat and never get hungry one of these days, Hallelujah. I'm gonna drink and never get thirsty one of these days, Hallelujah. God's gonna set this world on fire...

Traditional Spiritual

Please remain seated or kneel.

Prayers of Intercession *led by Jeff Claxton*

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 Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own:
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.**
- 2 Crown him the Virgin's Son,
the God incarnate born,
whose arm those crimson trophies won
which now his brow adorn:
Fruit of the mystic Rose,
as of that Rose the Stem;
the Root whence mercy ever flows,
the Babe of Bethlehem.**

continued...

- 3** Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
those wounds yet visible above
in beauty glorified:
no angel in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends his burning eye
at mysteries so bright.
- 4** Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose power a sceptre sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
and all be prayer and praise:
his reign shall know no end,
and round his piercèd feet
fair flowers of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.

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

- 5** Crown him the Lord of years,
the Potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime:
all hail, Redeemer, hail,
for thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.

Matthew Bridges (1800-1894)

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:

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new. By these gifts of water, bread and wine, transform the poverty of our nature, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

All The Lord be with you
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.**

God of hope, in your Holy Spirit you hovered over the face of the waters in creation, and in your pillar of fire you led your people to liberation across the Red Sea. Through the waters you brought your people into the life and land of promise. In your Son's baptism at the Jordan we see your creative and liberating purpose at work amid our human flaws and failures, and we hear anew with hope the promise of your voice. In our own baptism you number us among your saints, created and redeemed for your glory. Through baptism you bury us in death with Christ yet raise us to new life with him forever. And so we gladly thank you, with saints and angels and archangels, and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your 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.

Blessing God, who sent down your Holy Spirit like a dove upon your Beloved, send your Spirit among us now to sanctify us by your grace. By the power of that same Spirit, make these gifts of bread and wine be for us the body and blood of your Son 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.**

Father of glory, you have opened your heaven and come among us. Be close to those who ache for your liberating power in the midst of travails and seek your open heaven. Visit all who need the healing, forgiving, peacemaking and restoring touch of your Spirit and look for your kingdom to come. Bless all who long to be called beloved, by sibling or parent or spouse or friend or child, and any who are searching for the love that only you can bring, until all stand in your presence, and sing your name, and are enfolded in your embrace, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, ever one God.

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 Spirit of the Lord *Elgar*

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor: he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord; to give unto them that mourn a garland for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified. For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

Isaiah 61

Silence is kept.

Prayer after Communion

All **In our offering we have shown that to us you are precious, honoured and loved. We thank you that in the baptism of your Son and in the sharing of his life in communion we discover what it means to be precious, honoured and loved by you. Make this moment one of renewal and commitment as in your Son we see your constant commitment to us. Amen.**

The Dismissal

Notices

Please stand.

Blessing

God, who in his Christ gives us a spring of water welling up to eternal life, perfect in you the image of his glory; and the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Thanksgiving Hymn

- 1 **Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;
be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.**
- 2 **Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;
be thou my great Father, and I thy true child;
be thou in me dwelling, with thee reconciled.**
- 3 **Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might;
be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower:
O raise thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.**
- 4 **Riches I heed not, nor earth's empty praise:
be thou mine inheritance now and always;
be thou and thou only the first in my heart;
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.**
- 5 **High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright sun,
O grant me its joys after vict'ry is won;
great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.**

Irish, c. 8th century, tr. Mary Byrne (1880-1931); vers. Eleanor Hull (1860-1935)

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Organ Voluntary Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam, BuxWV 180
Buxtehude

Prayers for healing are available at the altar rail after the service.

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