



Sunday 26 January 2025, 10am
The Third Sunday of Epiphany
Homelessness Sunday

The Eucharist

Presider
Revd Angela Sheard

Preacher
Jolley Gosnold

The Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields

Directed by
Jennifer Sterling

Organist
Phoebe Tak Man Chow

Setting
Missa Brevis in F Major *Mozart*

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 **O thou, who at thy Eucharist didst pray
that all thy church might be for ever one,
grant us at every Eucharist to say
with longing heart and soul, 'Thy will be done':
O may we all one bread, one body be,
through this blest sacrament of unity.**
- 2 **For all thy church, O Lord, we intercede;
make thou our sad divisions soon to cease;
draw us the nearer each to each, we plead,
by drawing all to thee, O Prince of Peace:
thus may we all one bread, one body be,
through this blest sacrament of unity.**
- 3 **We pray thee too for wanderers from thy fold;
O bring them back, good Shepherd of the sheep,
back to the faith which saints believed of old,
back to the church which still that faith doth keep;
soon may we all one bread, one body be,
through this blest sacrament of unity.**

continued...

**4 So, Lord, at length when sacraments shall cease,
may we be one with all thy church above,
one with thy saints in one unbroken peace,
one with thy saints in one unbounded love:
more blessed still, in peace and love to be
one with the Trinity in Unity.**

William Henry Turton (1856-1938)

Please sit or kneel.

Confession

In a world of abundance and riches where many go hungry, where many are destitute or live in fear of homelessness, let us confess our failure to share our blessings with others.

Silence is kept.

We have seen desperation; and turned away.

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

We have beheld injustice; yet said nothing.

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

We have been given hope; yet let despair win.

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

God our creator, whose Son Jesus Christ fulfilled the Spirit's call reconciling the world to himself and offering new life to all who truly repent, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, reconcile us to you and one another and grant us the grace and power of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Please remain seated or kneeling.

Collect

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; 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.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a *read Sean Curtin*

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot were to say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body’, that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear were to say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body’, that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you’, nor again the head to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’ On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets,

third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

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 now, O Prince of peace,
make us one body,
come, O Lord Jesus,
reconcile your people.**

**2 Come now, O God of love,
make us one body,
come, O Lord Jesus,
reconcile your people.**

continued after Gospel reading

Gospel Reading Luke 4: 14-21

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

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

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn *continued*

**3 Come now and set us free,
O God, our Saviour,
come, O Lord Jesus,
reconcile all nations.**

**4 Come, Hope of unity,
make us one body,
come, O Lord Jesus,
reconcile all nations.**

Geon-yong Lee (b. 1947), rev. Marion Pope (b.1928)

Please sit after the opening prayer.

Sermon Jolley Gosnold

Special thanks to members of the International Group for sharing their testimonies, which are performed by Djavan van de Fliert and Will de Renzy-Martin.

Anthem The Road Home *Paulus*

Tell me where is the road I can call my own, that I left, that I lost, so long ago? All these years I have wandered, oh when will I know there's a way, there's a road that will lead me home? After wind, after rain, when the dark is done, as I wake from a dream in the gold of day, through the air there's a calling from away, there's a voice I can hear that will lead me home. Rise up, follow me, come away is the call, with love in your heart as the only song; there is no such beauty as where you belong, rise up, follow me, I will lead you home.

Michael Dennis Browne (b. 1940)

Please remain seated or kneel.

Prayers of Intercession *led by Maddie Naisbitt*

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

We are the body of Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life.

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 Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets;
no one is his neighbour, all alone he eats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too;
make me, friend or stranger, fit to wait on you.**
- 2 Jesus Christ is raging, raging in the streets,
where injustice spirals and real hope retreats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am angry too;
in the Kingdom's causes let me rage with you.**

continued...

**3 Jesus Christ is healing, healing in the streets;
curing those who suffer, touching those he greets.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I have pity too;
let my care be active, healing, just like you.**

**4 Jesus Christ is dancing, dancing in the streets,
where each sign of hatred he, with love, defeats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I should triumph too;
where good conquers evil, let me dance with you.**

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

**5 Jesus Christ is calling, calling in the streets,
'Who will join my journey? I will guide their feet.'
Listen, Lord Jesus, let my fears be few:
walk one step before me, I will follow you.**

John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (1958-2019)

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:

**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.

God of the wilderness, you called Abraham to leave his home, you visited Hagar in her destitution, you walked with your people out of the famine of Canaan and through the slavery of Egypt, and you were with them 40 years in the wilderness. When your children were in exile you made yourself known in the midst of hardship. In Jesus you had no place to lay your head, and knew rejection, betrayal and desertion. You give up your home to take up residence among us, and in your Holy Spirit you make Christ present where we are hungry, naked, and alone. And so we praise you, with angels and archangels celebrating the hymn of your glory.

Sanctus and Benedictus *sung by the choir*

Homeless God, the ark of your covenant had no house to stay in from Sinai until Solomon built the Temple. Yet in Christ you took flesh and set up your tent among us. And today in these gifts of bread and wine you dwell with us as we behold your glory. Make your home among all who have no home. Through your Holy Spirit make this fruit of the vine and work of human hands become 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.

Great is the mystery of faith.

All **Christ has died.**
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Vulnerable God, your son was born homeless, was soon a refugee, and died among those society had rejected – yet rose to gather us into life forever with you. Be close to all who sleep outside. Give resilience and hope to any who rely on precarious friendships to find a roof for a few days. Lift up the hearts of all who seek asylum, that they may find a home in a foreign and sometimes hostile environment. Bless refugees, who inhabit the identity your son knew so well. Give your church grace to offer hospitality, knowing that it entertains strangers unawares. Sing a song in every weary throat, embolden each persistent step, hold fast those who face violence, hunger, and humiliation. Turn shame to companionship, fear to trust, and despair to new beginnings, till all your children gather at your throne in glory, one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

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.**

Anthem Notre Père *Our Father* Duruflé

Notre Père qui es aux cieux, que ton nom soit sanctifié, que ton règne vienne, que ta volonté soit faite sur la terre comme au ciel. Donne nous aujourd'hui notre pain de ce jour, pardonne-nous nos offenses, comme nous pardonnons aussi à ceux qui nous ont offensés, et ne nous soumets pas à la tentation, mais délivre-nous du mal. *Our Father, who art in heav'n; hallow'd be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heav'n. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.*

Giving of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin 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 Agnus Dei

Silence is kept.

Prayer after Communion

Remember that Jesus Christ meets you in both friend and stranger.

All **Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all you children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Dismissal

Notices

Please stand.

Blessing

May the Lord Jesus Christ teach you to walk in God's way more trustfully, to accept God's truth more faithfully, and to share God's life more lovingly; and the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Thanksgiving Hymn

- 1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.
*Christ be our light!
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.***
- 2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.
*Chorus***
- 3 Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.
*Chorus***
- 4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stones.
*Chorus***

continued...

**5 Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.
Christ be our light!
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ be our light!
*Shine in your church gathered today.***

Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957)

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
All In the name of Christ. Amen.

Organ Voluntary Dankpsalm *Reger*

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

This year's Homelessness Sunday retiring collection will go to support the work of the International Group at St Martin's, which provides help and sanctuary for migrants and refugees who have no recourse to public funds or are destitute in London. You can also donate here www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org/support-us/single-gift/, please include 'International Group' in the comment section.

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

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