



Sunday 16 March 2025, 10am
The Second Sunday of Lent

The Eucharist

Presider
Revd Angela Sheard

Assisted by
Ven Katherine Hedderly

Preacher
Revd Dr Sam Wells

The Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields

Directed by
Jennifer Sterling

Organist
Jamie Andrews

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

Introit Lent Prose *Plainchant*

Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee. To thee, Redeemer, on thy throne of glory: lift we our weeping eyes in holy pleadings: listen, O Jesu, to our supplications. Refrain O thou chief Corner-stone, Right Hand of the Father Way of Salvation, Gate of Life Celestial cleanse thou our sinful souls from all defilement. *Refrain*

*'Attende, Domine', anonymous Latin from the Mozarabic Breviary (5th to 8th century),
compiled by Dom Pothier (fl. 1824)*

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 Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise,
triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.**

**2 Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by thee:
joyless is the day's return,
till thy mercy's beams I see,
till they inward light impart,
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.**

continued...

**3 Visit then this soul of mine;
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, radiancy divine;
scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.**

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Please sit.

The choir represents the congregation in welcoming back Revd Dr Sam Wells in the words of the anthem while Archdeacon Katherine, clergy and wardens lay on hands.

Anthem You Do Not Walk Alone Elaine Hagenberg

May you see God's light on the path ahead when the road you walk is dark. May you always hear, even in your hour of sorrow, the gentle singing of the lark. When times are hard may hardness never turn your heart to stone, may you always remember when the shadows fall you do not walk alone.

Traditional Irish Blessing

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

Collect

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18 *read by Mel Adams*

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' But Abram said, 'O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' But the word of the Lord came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, 'I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.' But he said, 'O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.'

Hear the word of the Lord

All **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading Philippians 3: 17—4: 1 *read by Lois Howarth*

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

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

**Unless a grain of wheat shall fall
upon the ground and die,
it remains but a single grain
with no life.**

Verses sung by soloist

1 If we have died with him
then we shall live with him;
if we hold firm
we shall reign with him.

Refrain

2 Make your home in me
as I make mine in you;
those who remain in me
bear much fruit.

Refrain

continued after Gospel reading

Gospel Reading John 12: 20-26

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

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

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am,

there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn *continued*

3 Peace I leave with you,
my peace I give to you;
peace which the world cannot
give is my gift.

**Unless a grain of wheat shall fall
upon the ground and die,
it remains but a single grain
with no life.**

Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957)

Please sit after the opening prayer.

Sermon Revd Dr Sam Wells

Anthem *O nata lux Morten Lauridsen*

O nata lux de lumine, Jesu redemptor saeculi, dignare clemens supplicum laudes precesque summere. Qui carne quondam contegi dignatus es pro perditis, membra confer effici tui beati corporis. O Light born of Light, Jesus, redeemer of the world, with loving-kindness deign to receive suppliant praise and prayer. Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh for the sake of the lost, grant us to be members of thy blessed body.

10th century hymn

Please stand.

Apostles' Creed

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
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

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** There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in his justice,
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heav'n;
there is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgement giv'n.
- 2** For the love of God is broader
than the measure of our mind,
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
But we make his love too narrow
by false limits of our own;
and we magnify his strictness
with a zeal he will not own.
- 3** There is plentiful redemption
in the blood that has been shed;
there is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the Head.
There is grace enough for thousands
of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations
in that upper home of bliss.

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

Second half of tune:

- 4** If our love were but more simple,
we should take him at his word;
and our lives would be all gladness
in the joy of Christ our Lord.

Frederick William Faber (1814-1863)

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.

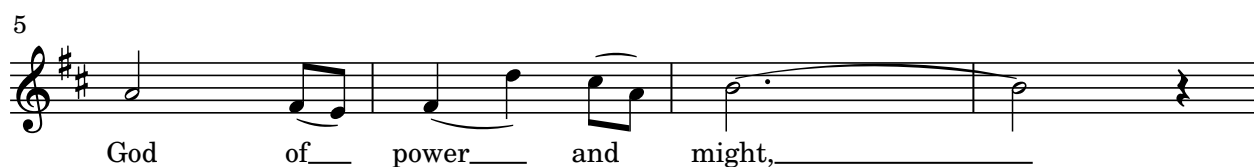
Eucharistic Prayer

**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.

Maternal God, you long to gather your children as a mother hen gathers her brood under her wings. You have made the descendants of Abraham as many as the stars in the sky and the sands in the desert; and in your great mercy you have made us, too, children of your blessed unbreakable covenant. In Jesus you came among us in grace and truth; in his death we showed the depth of our departure from your ways; in his resurrection you demonstrate that nothing is impossible with you. And so we gather at your table like angels at your throne, joining the archangels as they continually sing anthems of heavenly praise.



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 our salvation, you have made us a people for your own possession, and we become yours as you become ours in the sharing of this meal of bread and cup. Send down your Holy Spirit, that these tokens of earthly sustenance and heavenly joy may 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.

God our stronghold, as we walk this Lenten journey through the wilderness with you, make this eternal food enough to feed us through times of uncertainty and fear. Soften in us the impulse of greed, that, as we share the bread of life, we may continue to understand the word 'enough.' Shape our hearts to long for that day when you gather your children to yourself, and inspire us to make all who are created in your image our companions at this and other tables, until the day when all our hungers are satisfied and every friendship is fulfilled in the company of your Holy Trinity, though whom, and with whom, and in whom, 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

Torn between grief at our sin and never-ending love for all creation we see the broken heart of God.

Agnus 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

Come and receive the food of eternal life, the drink that never runs out.

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 Civitas sancti tui Byrd

Civitas sancti tui facta est deserta: Sion deserta facta est: Jerusalem desolata est. Your holy city has become a wilderness. Sion has become a wilderness, Jerusalem has been made desolate.

Isaiah 64, Cantiones Sacrae, Book 2, (1591)

Silence is kept.

Prayer after Communion

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 your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Dismissal

Notices

Please stand.

Blessing

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Thanksgiving Hymn

- 1** Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever childlike, no care could destroy,
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
- 2** Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
- 3** Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

continued...

**4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.**

Jan Struther (1901–1953)

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

Choral Amen Choral Amen from 'Lo, the full, final sacrifice' *Finzi*

Organ Voluntary Voluntary in D *Dyson*

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

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March 2025