



Sunday 19 February 2023, 10am
The Sunday Next before Lent

The Eucharist

Presider
Revd Richard Carter

Preacher
Revd Angela Sheard

Soloist
Ellen Griffiths

Organist
Polina Sosnina

Setting
Mass of St Thomas *Thorne*

Welcome

Our Stewards are available to assist with any of the following access information.

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 beyond 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, cognitive or mental health issues, or are neurodivergent. The order of service is available online or large print copies. 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 take them to the back if they need that to settle or to our children's church room provided for them. We support breastfeeding in services or we also have a room allocated. We have children's church groups during the service (currently alternate weeks) and a monthly group for teenagers after our service.

Welcome to anyone with a need of safeguarding. If you would like to reach our safeguarding team, you can email safeguarding@smitf.org

Welcome to all experiences of race, culture and language. At the Lord's Prayer we are all invited to bring the gift of our first language to our worship. Because of historical links to Soho our 1.30pm is in Cantonese and our Stewards are happy to help where they can if you are new to English. Of course, you are also very welcome if you are LGBTQIA+.

Welcome if you are agnostic or have different beliefs to 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 being-with@smitf.org for more details.

You are welcome to share our meal with God. When we come to Holy Communion, we receive a bread wafer then wine sharing a cup. You may receive just bread if you wish. Non-alcoholic wine and gluten free wafers are available in the south aisle. If you need to receive in your seat please let a steward know and the priest will bring it to you. If you do not want to or cannot receive bread and wine for whatever reason you are welcome to let the priest know you would like to receive a simple prayer for blessing or 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 Christ is the world's true light,
its captain of salvation,
the daystar clear and bright
of every land and nation;
new life, new hope awakes,
where peoples own his sway:
freedom her bondage breaks,
and night is turned to day.**
- 2 In Christ all races meet,
their ancient feuds forgetting,
the whole round world complete,
from sunrise to its setting:
when Christ is throned as Lord,
lands shall forsake their fear,
to ploughshare beat the sword,
to pruning-hook the spear.**

continued...

**3 One Lord, in one great name
unite us all who own thee;
cast out our pride and shame
that hinder to enthrone thee;
the world has waited long,
has travailed long in pain;
to heal its ancient wrong,
come, Prince of Peace, and reign.**

George Wallace Briggs (1875-1959)

Please sit or kneel.

Confession

God invites us into an intimate relationship in which we delight in God and in one another, a relationship from which we keep turning. Let us therefore confess our sins and seek God's mercy.

Silence.

You invite us up onto the mountain to commune with you, but we hide in our caves and miss your invitation.

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

You invite us to be eyewitnesses of your majesty and to hear that we are beloved, but we close our eyes and stop up our ears.

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

You invite us into the richness of life with you and with one another, but we remain in our poverty and turn from each other.

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

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 stand.

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

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-

migh - ty 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 Collect

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; 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 Exodus 24: 12-end *read by Mel Adams*

The Lord said to Moses, 'Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.' So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, 'Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.' Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Hear the word of the Lord

All **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading 2 Peter 1: 16-end *read by Ivan Yuen*

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, 'This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.' We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain. So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day

dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from 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 Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant, too.**

**2 We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.**

**3 I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.**

continued after Gospel reading

Gospel Reading Matthew 17: 1-9

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

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

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming

down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn *continued*

**4 I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh, I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.**

**5 When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.**

**6 Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant, too.**

Richard Gillard (b. 1953)

Please sit after the opening prayer.

Sermon Revd Angela Sheard

Anthem Be Not Afraid *Bob Dufford*

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 Neil MacGregor*

The response to the prayers is:

Lord in your mercy

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 The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord:
she is his new creation by water and the word;
from heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.**
 - 2 Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.**
 - 3 Though with a scornful wonder the world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distrest,
yet saints their watch are keeping, their cry goes up, 'How long?'
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.**
 - 4 'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace for evermore,
till, with the vision glorious, her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.**
- A musical interlude may be played on the organ before the final verse is sung*
- 5 Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.**

Samuel John Stone (1839-1900)

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:

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this bread to set before you, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

All Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this wine to set before you, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.

All Blessed be God for ever.

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.

Creating and liberating God, you called your people into covenant with you and sealed it with Moses on the mountain; you called your people back to that covenant through your prophets and spoke in a still small voice to Elijah on a mountain. Then in your Son Jesus on a mountain you stood between the Law and the Prophets and revealed the radiance of your gospel. On Calvary's hill your Son redeemed us by the blood of your new covenant, and on the mountain in Galilee he ascended to your right hand on high. And so we gladly thank you, celebrating your glory with angels and archangels, and all the company of heaven, dazzled by your face and 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.

Dazzling God, you set up your tent and make your dwelling among us. Abide with us now through the power of your Holy Spirit, that your people may become a temple of your presence, and that these gifts of bread and wine 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.**

Transfiguring God, it is good for us to be here. Through this holy sacrament make us your sons and daughters, and be close to all children who have no one to share your love and mercy with them. Make us your beloved, and visit all who have no one to call them beloved. Give us grace to listen to your voice, and bring to your heart any who have no one to listen to them. Surround us with your prophetic company and take us up into the whirlwind of your glory, until the day comes when the waters of the Jordan are parted and the heavens are opened and the chariots bring us home to you, ever one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Please sit or kneel.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray, each in our own first 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.**

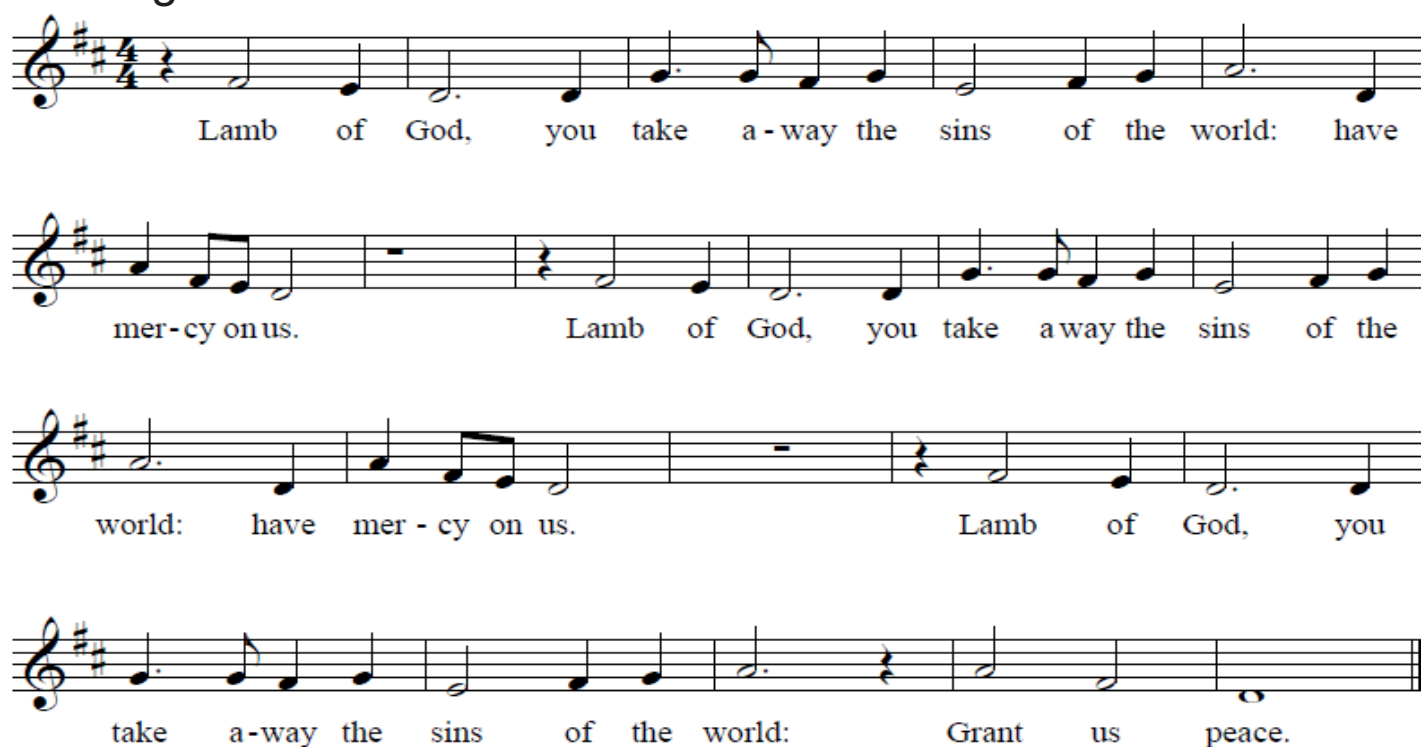
**Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

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

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communicant members of all Christian Churches are invited to receive Holy Communion.

Bread and wine are available in the central and side aisles. Gluten-free wafers and non-alcoholic wine are available in the south aisle. If you wish to receive Communion in your seat do let a steward know.

Communion Anthem Come Unto Him *Handel*

Silence is kept.

Prayer after Communion

All Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Dismissal

Notices

Please stand.

Blessing

God the Father, who has given to the Son the name above every name, strengthen you to proclaim Christ as Lord, through the power of the Spirit; 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 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 heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgement given.**
- 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.**

continued...

3 There is plentiful redemption
through 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.

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)

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

Organ Voluntary

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