

St
Martin
in
the
Fields

Sunday 21 May 2023, 10am
The Seventh Sunday of Easter
The Sunday after Ascension Day

The Eucharist

Presider
Revd Richard Carter

Preacher
Revd Dr Sam Wells

The Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields

Directed by
Jennifer Sterling

Organist
Polina Sosnina

Setting
St Martin's Mass *Bednall*

⊕ Common Worship

Welcome

Our welcomers 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 online or large print copies are 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 children's church groups during the service (currently alternate weeks) and a monthly group for teenagers after Sunday morning worship.

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 all are invited to bring the gift of our first 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 agnostic or are from a faith tradition different from 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 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 the 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.

Jesus said I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God. Alleluia!

All And he shall come again in glory. Alleluia!

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 Hail the day that sees him rise,
alleluia,
to his throne above the skies;
alleluia,
Christ, the Lamb for sinners given,
alleluia,
enters now the highest heaven.
Alleluia!**

**2 There for him high triumph waits;
alleluia,
lift your heads, eternal gates.
Alleluia,
He hath conquered death and sin;
alleluia,
take the King of Glory in.
Alleluia!**

continued...

- 3 Lo, the heaven its Lord receives,
alleluia,
yet he loves the earth he leaves;
alleluia,
though returning to his throne,
alleluia,
still he calls mankind his own.
Alleluia!
- 4 See, he lifts his hands above;
alleluia,
see, he shews the prints of love;
alleluia,
hark, his gracious lips bestow
alleluia,
blessings on his church below.
Alleluia!
- 5 Lord, though parted from our sight,
alleluia,
far above the starry height,
alleluia,
grant our hearts may thither rise,
alleluia,
seeking thee above the skies.
Alleluia!

Charles Wesley (1707-1788), Thomas Cotterill (1779-1823) and others

Please sit or kneel.

Confession

Jesus said, 'I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God. Alleluia!'

Silence.

We have become divided within ourselves, failing to grasp the depth of your love for us.

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

We have become disunited among ourselves, failing to honour your loving mercy towards each of us.

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

We have become weak in our discipleship, in the world turning aside from your promise to strengthen us.

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of Love forgive our sins through Jesus our ascended Lord and give us his Spirit that we may live in unity and peace.

All **Amen.**

Collect

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, 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 Acts 1: 6-14 *read by Lois Howarth*

So when they had come together, they asked Jesus, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which

is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

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 The head that once was crowned with thorns
is crowned with glory now:
a royal diadem adorns
the mighty Victor's brow.**
- 2 The highest place that heaven affords
is his, is his by right,
the King of kings, and Lord of lords,
and heaven's eternal Light;**
- 3 The joy of all who dwell above,
the joy of all below,
to whom he manifests his love,
and grants his name to know.**
- 4 To them the cross, with all its shame,
with all its grace, is given:
their name, an everlasting name,
their joy, the joy of heaven.**

continued after Gospel reading

Gospel Reading John 17: 1-11

Alleluia, alleluia. Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord. Remember I am with you always, to the end of the age.

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

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

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn *continued*

**5 They suffer with their Lord below,
they reign with him above;
their profit and their joy to know
the mystery of his love.**

**6 The cross he bore is life and health,
though shame and death to him;
his people's hope, his people's wealth,
their everlasting theme.**

Thomas Kelly (1769-1855)

Please sit after the opening prayer.

Sermon Revd Dr Sam Wells

Anthem God is Gone up *Finzi*

Please remain seated or kneel.

The Prayers of Intercession *led by Fiona MacMillan*

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

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 At the name of Jesus
every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him
King of Glory now.
'Tis the Father's pleasure
we should call him Lord,
who from the beginning
was the mighty Word.**

continued...

- 2** **Mighty and mysterious
in the highest height,
God from everlasting
very light of light:
in the Father's bosom
with the Spirit blest,
love, in love eternal,
rest, in perfect rest.**
- 3** **At his voice creation
sprang at once to sight,
all the angel faces
all the hosts of light,
thrones and dominations,
stars upon their way,
all the heavenly orders
in their great array.**
- 4** **Humbled for a season,
to receive a name
from the lips of sinners
unto whom he came,
faithfully he bore it
spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious
when from death he passed.**
- 5** **Bore it up triumphant
with its human light,
through all ranks of creatures
to the central height,
to the throne of Godhead,
to the Father's breast;
filled it with the glory
of that perfect rest.**
- 6** **In your hearts enthrone him;
there let him subdue
all that is not holy,
all that is not true:
crown him as your captain
in temptation's hour;
let his will enfold you
in its light and power.**

continued...

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

**7 Surely, this Lord Jesus
shall return again,
with his Father's glory,
with his angel train;
for all wreaths of empire
meet upon his brow,
and our hearts confess him
King of Glory now.**

Caroline Maria Noel (1817-1877)

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.**

Glorious God, in Moses, the prophets, and the psalms you showed your purpose for your people and your love for your world. In Jesus you fulfilled your promises and opened to us your heart. In his passion and death we saw the consequences of our rejection and the depth of your yearning. Yet you raised Jesus from the tomb. In his resurrection you invite us into the company of your eternal joy, and in his ascension on high you seal as complete his work among us. So with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we praise you forever, singing:

Org. *f*
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of po-wer and
ff
 might. Heav'n and Earth are full of your glo-ry, Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Org. *p*
 Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the
pp
 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Gracious God, your Son at his ascension promised the disciples they would be clothed with power from on high. Send now your Holy Spirit, that we may know the presence of your Son among us, and that bread broken, and wine outpoured, may be for us his body and blood. 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.

Generous God, your Son told his disciples to stay in the city until they were clothed by the Spirit. Give courage to those whom you call to stay in places of danger and confusion when their hearts are full of doubt and disillusion. Your Son withdrew from the disciples when they did not know what the future would hold. Be close to all who face an uncertain future and deeply know their need of you. Your Son's disciples were continually in the temple praising you. Give your church a fresh outpouring of your Spirit and make it a blessing to all the children of your earth; until the completion of your Son's ministry becomes the completion of your whole creation, and you are all in all, 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 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

As Christ breaks bread with us

All **He enfolds our story in his story.**

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God; you take a-way the sin of the
world: have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God; you take a - way the sin of the
world: have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God; you take a-way the sin of the
world: grant us peace.

Giving of Communion

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

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 Coelos ascendit hodie Stanford

Silence is kept.

The Prayer after Communion

All Eternal God, giver of life and power, your son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to live the Gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission and may we be the bearers of your love to all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Dismissal

Notices

Please stand.

Blessing

Christ our ascended King pour upon you the abundance of his gifts and bring you to reign with him in glory; 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 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 Lord of Love!
Behold his hands and side,
rich wounds yet visible above
in beauty glorified:
no angel in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends their burning eye
at mysteries so bright.**
- 3 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 piercéd feet
fair flowers of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.**

continued...

4 **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 (1800-94)

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

All **In the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Blessing Anthem Peace I leave with you *Beach*

Organ Voluntary

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