



Sunday 16 July 2023, 10am  
The Sixth Sunday after Trinity

# The Eucharist

Presider  
Revd Richard Carter

Preacher  
Revd Dr Sam Wells

The Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields

Directed by  
Jennifer Sterling

Organist  
Benjamin Frost

Setting  
Little Organ Mass *Haydn*

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.**

*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 We have a gospel to proclaim,  
good news for all throughout the earth;  
the gospel of a Saviour's name:  
we sing his glory, tell his worth.**
- 2 Tell of his birth at Bethlehem  
not in a royal house or hall  
but in a stable dark and dim,  
the Word made flesh, a light for all.**
- 3 Tell of his death at Calvary,  
hated by those he came to save,  
in lonely suffering on the cross;  
for all he loved his life he gave.**
- 4 Tell of that glorious Easter morn:  
empty the tomb, for he was free.  
He broke the power of death and hell  
that we might share his victory.**
- 5 Tell of his reign at God's right hand,  
by all creation glorified.  
He sends his Spirit on his church  
to live for him, the Lamb who died.**

*continued...*

**6 Now we rejoice to name him King:  
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.  
This gospel-message we proclaim:  
we sing his glory, tell his worth.**

*Edward Joseph Burns (b. 1938)*

*Please sit or kneel.*

## Confession

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

*All* **Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

*Please stand.*

Gloria in Excelsis *sung by the choir*

## Collect

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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 Genesis 25: 19-end *read by Eddie Grove*

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, 'If it is to be this way, why do I live?' So she went to inquire of the Lord. And the Lord said to her, 'Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger.' When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterwards his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

When the boys grew up, Esau was a skilful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, 'Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!' (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, 'First sell me your birthright.' Esau said, 'I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?' Jacob said, 'Swear to me first.' So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Hear the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading Romans 8: 1-11 *read by Helen Riley*

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of

the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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 O food to pilgrims given,  
O bread of life from heaven,  
O manna from on high!  
We hunger; Lord, supply us,  
nor thy delights deny us,  
whose hearts to thee draw nigh.**

**2 O stream of love past telling,  
O purest fountain, welling  
from out the Saviour's side!  
We faint with thirst; revive us,  
of thine abundance give us,  
and all we need provide.**

*continued after Gospel reading*

Gospel Reading Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

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

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

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds

came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!

‘Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn *continued*

**3 O Jesus, by thee bidden,  
we here adore thee, hidden  
in forms of bread and wine.  
Grant, when the veil is riven,  
we may behold, in heaven,  
thy countenance divine.**

*O esca viatorum from Mäyntzisch Gesangbuch, 1661, tr. John Athelstan Riley (1858–1945)*

*Please sit after the opening prayer.*

Sermon Revd Dr Sam Wells

Anthem The Spirit of the Lord *Elgar*

*Please stand.*



## Nicene Creed

*All* **We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.**

*Please sit or kneel.*



## The 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

Christ brings us peace with God, with ourselves, with one another, and with the whole creation.

*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 Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,  
first-begotten from the dead,  
thou alone, our strong defender,  
liftest up thy people's head.  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
Jesu, true and living bread.**

*continued...*

- 2** Here our humblest homage pay we,  
here in loving reverence bow;  
here for faith's discernment pray we,  
lest we fail to know thee now.  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
thou art here, we ask not how.
- 3** Though the lowliest form doth veil thee  
as of old in Bethlehem,  
here as there thine angels hail thee,  
branch and flower of Jesse's stem.  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
we in worship join with them.
- 4** Paschal Lamb, thine offering, finished  
once for all when thou wast slain,  
in its fullness undiminished  
shall for evermore remain,  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
cleansing souls from every stain.

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

- 5** Life-imparting heavenly manna,  
stricken rock with streaming side,  
heaven and earth with loud hosanna  
worship thee, the Lamb who died,  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
risen, ascended, glorified.

*George Hugh Bourne (1840-1925)*

## 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 be God, by whose grace creation is renewed, by whose love heaven is opened, by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.

**All Blessed be God forever.**

## 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.**

Creator God, you made this earth of paths and rocks and thorns and soil. To Abraham you promised fertile land, and to Moses you offered blessing and freedom. In your prophets you called your people to cultivate the promises of your land and cherish the blessings of your freedom. In Jesus you gave us your superabundant soil. In his cross he was ploughed and broken open, that we might be restored, replenished and renewed, to be planted again as your good seed in this earth. And so we gladly thank you, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending praise.

### Sanctus and Benedictus *sung by the choir*

Abundant God, from your good soil you make enough and plenty to feed and inspire all your children, and out of your earth you bring the glory of resurrection life. Come among us now through the power of your Spirit, that we may be transformed into your likeness, and that these gifts of bread and wine may 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.  
*All* **Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

Transforming God, where your children are in the grip of evil and bewilderment, bring them your courage and clarity. Where they are without deep root and facing trouble or persecution, give them patience and endurance. Where they are burdened by the cares of the world and tempted by the lure of wealth, offer them wisdom and understanding. And where they bear fruit and yield, make that fruit so plentiful that it may feed all in your world who hunger for faith, for hope, or for love. Sanctify your groaning creation, that your universe may breathe your breath and be filled with your life anew, that we may love what you love, and do what you would do, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, ever one God.

*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

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 *sung by the choir*

## Giving of Communion

Come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been to this sacrament often, and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus and you who have failed. Come, it is Christ who calls us to meet him here.

**All Amen.**

*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 O Nata Lux *Morten Lauridsen*

*Silence is kept.*

## The Prayer after Communion

**All God of love you have sowed the seed of your Gospel in our hearts. We pray that we may be the good soil and our lives bring forth the abundant fruits of your kingdom. Amen.**

## The Dismissal

### Notices

*Please stand.*

### Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; 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** To God be the glory, great things he has done!  
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,  
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.  
*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!*  
*Let the earth hear his voice!*  
*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!*  
*Let the people rejoice!*  
*O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son;*  
*and give him the glory! Great things he has done!*
- 2** O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
To every believer the promise of God!  
And every offender who truly believes,  
that moment from Jesus forgiveness receives.  
*Chorus*
- 3** Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,  
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
but purer, and higher, and greater will be  
our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see.  
*Chorus*

*Fanny Crosby, (Frances Jane van Alstyne) (1820–1915)*

## Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

## Organ Voluntary

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





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