

St  
Martin  
in  
the  
Fields

Wednesday 13 September 2023, 6.30pm

# Bread for the World

*with the Admission of New Members  
and Renewal of Promises of the  
Nazareth Community*



Celebrant    Revd Richard Carter

Preacher    Revd Dr Sam Wells

Soloist    Natalie Houlston

Accompanist    Polina Sosnina

Please pray for these new members of the Nazareth  
Community who make their promises today:

Jane Bishop

Anushka Gunawardena

Jolley Gosnold

Please pray for all the members of the Nazareth  
Community renewing their promises.

Please pray for the Companions of Nazareth who  
have joined us today both in the building and all those  
joining us online.

Introit O sing a song of Bethlehem *arr. Vaughan Williams*

## Welcome and Opening Prayer

Loving God,  
Come to us in the difference of every life gathered.  
Come to us in song.  
Come to us in Word  
Come to us in stillness and silence.  
Come to us in our care for one another.  
Come to us in bread and wine  
Come to us and transform us  
Reach out across time.  
Be present in all time.

*All* **Amen.**

*All* **Come Jesus, be our guest,  
stay with us for day is ending.  
With friend, with stranger,  
with the young and old,  
with the lost and found.  
Be among us tonight.  
Our guest, our host, the one who says all – all are welcome here.**

## Hymn

- 1 A man there lived in Galilee unlike all those before,  
for he alone from first to last our flesh unblemished wore;  
a perfect life of perfect deeds once to the world was shown,  
that all who see might mark his steps and in them plant their own.**
- 2 A man there died on Calvary above all others brave,  
all humankind to save and bless— himself he scorned to save.  
No thought can gauge the weight of woe on him, the sinless, laid;  
we only know that with his blood our ransom-price was paid.**
- 3 A man there reigns in glory now, divine, yet human still;  
that human which is all divine death sought in vain to kill.  
All power is his; supreme he rules the realms of time and space;  
yet still our human cares and needs find in his heart a place.**

*Somerset C. Lowry (1855-1932)*

*Please sit.*

## Prayers of Forgiveness

God longs to be with us. But we often live in alienation from God, ourselves, one another and God's creation. Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

*Silence is kept.*

Because the world is beautiful but beauty is easily destroyed, we need you.

Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

Because we often abandon you and turn away and walk past and are afraid and countless times betray you but you love us to the end and win a victory over all hatred, we need you.

Christ, have mercy.

*All* **Christ, have mercy.**

Because we have your message to proclaim, because we have your kingdom to build, because there are so many in need of your love, because we have your life to live.

Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

And Jesus said 'Your sins are forgiven'.

In the name of the Father who created you and waits to welcome you home, in the name of the Son who searches for you, in the name of the Spirit who brings the healing of forgiveness and calls you to do the same, you have been set free.

*All* **Amen.**

*Please sit.*

First Reading    Revd Richard Carter

Abraham: The Land that I Will Show You

From *Letters from Nazareth: A Contemplative Journey Home*

*Silence.*

Words on the Edge Luke 2: 39-40, 52 Revd Catherine Duce

When Joseph and Mary had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favour.

Reflection Revd Dr Sam Wells

Anthem Creating Father, give us faith *arr. Hassler*

### Prayers

Prayer of Thanksgiving Emma Bresslaw  
Prayer of Concern Fiona MacMillan  
Prayer of Hope Revd Cathy Scoffield

*Each prayer ends with 'We pray to you'.*

### Prayer Chant

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer,  
when I call ans - wer me. O Lord hear my prayer, O  
Lord hear my prayer, come and lis - ten to me.

# Blessing of the Nazareth Community

Introduction    Revd Richard Carter

*Members of the Nazareth Community and Companions of Nazareth are invited to take off their shoes and come slowly forward with the three new members to be admitted kneeling at the altar rail.*

Chant    Veni Sancte Spiritus

Admission    Revd Dr Sam Wells

Beloved in Christ, through prayer and discernment you have been called by God to become members of the Nazareth Community. This is an experiment in being with, enjoying God, cherishing life and discovering God's revelation in others. I therefore now ask these questions to all who wish to join the Community and all those who wish to renew their promises.

*To those to be admitted to the Nazareth Community*

What do you seek?

**We seek to live the Gospel with the Spirit of simplicity, compassion, forgiveness and joy.**

What grace do you ask?

**The mercy of God and the community of my sisters and brothers.**

Do you wish to become a member of the Nazareth Community and live the Nazareth rule of life - with Silence, Service, Scripture, Sharing, Sabbath and Staying With?

**With the help of God I do.**

*To the Nazareth Community and congregation*

From where will your help come?

**All    Our help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth.**

Will you, the Nazareth Community, support them in this calling, and uphold them in your prayers?

**All    We will, the Lord being our helper.**

Let us all keep silence as we pray for God's Holy Spirit to bless them and uphold them in this calling.

*Silence is kept.*

## The Blessing of the Crosses

Almighty God, bless these crosses; the sign of the Nazareth Community. May they become for those who wear them a sign of your resurrection revealed in the pain and hope of the cross.

I invite you who wish to be admitted into the Nazareth Community to make your promise and all those who would like to renew their Nazareth Promise to join together with them.

## The Promise

*Members of the Nazareth Community say together*

**Most high and everlasting God, accept me now as I come before you in love. I dedicate myself to the service of my Lord Jesus Christ, with silence, with sacrament, with compassionate service, with the study of your word and the sharing of your love for others, with Sabbath rest and staying with your call: I want to live the Gospel. O Lord give me grace. Amen.**

We give thanks for the promises you have made this day. May God keep you faithful, continue all that has been begun in you, and encourage you at all times in this path of discipleship to which you have been called.

*During the singing of the next anthem, Revd Dr Sam Wells admits those joining the Nazareth Community.*

Anthem Give us the wings of faith *James Whitbourn*

I receive you as a member of the Nazareth Community in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ may God continue, by the power of the Holy Spirit all he has begun in you.

## Sharing of the Peace

God is love and those who live in love, live in God, and God lives in them.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*All* **And also with you.**

## Hymn

- 1 Lord Jesus Christ,  
you have come to us,  
you are one with us,  
Mary's Son;  
cleansing our souls from all their sin,  
pouring your love and goodness in;  
Jesus, our love for you we sing,  
living Lord.**
- 2 Lord Jesus Christ,  
now and every day  
teach us how to pray,  
Son of God.  
You have commanded us to do  
this in remembrance, Lord, of you;  
into our lives your power breaks through,  
living Lord.**
- 3 Lord Jesus Christ,  
you have come to us,  
born as one of us,  
Mary's Son;  
Led out to die on Calvary,  
risen from death to set us free,  
living Lord Jesus, help us see  
you are Lord.**
- 4 Lord Jesus Christ,  
I would come to you,  
live my life for you,  
Son of God.  
All your commands I know are true,  
your many gifts will make me new,  
into my life your power breaks through,  
living Lord.**

*Patrick Appleford (1925-2018)*



## The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

*All* **And also with you**

Lift up your hearts

*All* **We lift them up to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

*All* **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*Together we pray:*

*All* **Bless the earth, heal the sick, let the oppressed go free, and fill each one of us with your love from on high. Gather your people from the ends of the earth to feast at your table with all your saints.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray in our first language the prayer our Saviour taught us:

*All* **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
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.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## The Breaking of the Bread

Look, Jesus Christ, the Bread of Heaven is broken for the life of the world. The gifts of God for the people of God

*All* **Jesus Bread of Life, Bread that is broken, Bread for the world.**

Communion motet Christ has no body now but yours *Ogden*

## Prayer after Communion

Lord Jesus Christ

We have recognised you in bread and wine

May our hearts burn within us on the road

Remember each day that Jesus Christ is in you.

*All* **Lord Jesus Christ**

**You are the Word for us to speak**

**You are the Truth for us to tell;**

**You are the Light for us to light in the darkness,**

**You are the Bread of Life for us to share.**

Notices

Blessing

Blessing Anthem   Irish blessing   *Bob Chilcott*

You are invited to join us in St Martin's Hall for refreshments and  
the launch of Revd Richard Carter's new book,  
*Letters from Nazareth: A Contemplative Journey Home.*

*There are no listening groups for this week only.*



If you have enjoyed this service and would like to help us continue with this work, we would be grateful to receive donations towards the worshipping life of the church. You can give:

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**Thank you.**

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