



Sunday 3 December 2023, 10am
First Sunday of Advent

The Eucharist

Presider
Revd Richard Carter

Preacher
Revd Angela Sheard

The Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields

Directed by
Jennifer Sterling

Organist
Phoebe Tak Man Chow

Setting
St Anne's Mass *James MacMillan*

⊕ 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

Introit Advent Responsory *Palestrina*

I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth. Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel? High and low, rich and poor, one with another, Go ye out to meet him and say: Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep, Tell us, art thou he that should come? Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth. Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

Early medieval

Welcome

Please stand. Silence is kept.

The Greeting

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

We acknowledge God's presence drawing each of us into one body as we gather on site and online.

All Visit us Lord, by your Holy Spirit.
**Though in many places, we are united as one body.
Though from many backgrounds, we share one hope.**

Opening Hymn

- 1 O come, O come Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.***
- 2 O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.
*Refrain***

continued...

3 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

4 O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
Refrain

5 O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.
Refrain

Latin Advent Antiphons tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Please sit or kneel.

Confession

When the Lord comes, all that is now hidden in darkness will be brought to light, and the secret purposes of the heart will be disclosed. Let us keep silence as we hold our lives open before God, asking for forgiveness and peace.

Silence is kept.

You bring our fear into the light of love; we prefer to hide in the shadows.

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

You promise healing for the earth; we turn our backs on our common world.

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

You come near in the vulnerable word made flesh; we are unprepared for your coming.

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

We sing together:

Lord have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy.

5
Christ have mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy

9
Lord have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy.

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.**

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

The Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and to put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility; that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Isaiah 64: 1-9 *read by Steve Adams*

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—as when fire kindles

brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Hear the word of the Lord

All **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9 *read by Eugene Ling*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind — just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you — so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free,
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.**

continued...

**2 Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.**

**3 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us for ever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

continued after Gospel reading

Gospel Reading Mark 13: 24-end

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

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

Jesus said 'But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. 'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn *continued*

- 4 By thy own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thy all-sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Please sit after the opening prayer.

Sermon Revd Angela Sheard

Anthem O thou the central orb *Wood*

O thou the central orb of righteous love, Pure beam of the most high, eternal light Of this our wintry world, thy radiance bright Awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above. / Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine, Gilding our darksome heaven with rays divine; Thy saints with holy lustre round thee move, As stars about thy throne, set in the height Of God's ordaining counsel, as thy sight Gives measured grace to each, thy power to prove. / Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin, Our nature all shall feel eternal day, In fellowship with thee, transforming clay To souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.

Adapted by Henry Ramsden Bramley (1833-1917)

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 Michael Angus*

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

May the God of peace make you completely holy, ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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 Hills of the North, rejoice;
river and mountain-spring,
hark to the advent voice;
valley and lowland, sing.
Christ comes in righteousness and love,
he brings salvation from above.**
- 2 Isles of the Southern seas,
sing to the listening earth,
hope of a world's new birth:
in Christ shall all be made anew,
his word is sure, his promise true.**
- 3 Lands of the East, arise,
he is your brightest morn,
greet him with joyous eyes,
praise shall his path adorn:
your seers have longed to know their Lord;
to you he comes, the final word.**

continued...

**4 Shores of the utmost West,
lands of the setting sun,
welcome the heavenly guest
in whom the dawn has come:
he brings a never-ending light
who triumphed o'er our darkest night.**

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

**5 Shout, as you journey home,
songs be in every mouth,
lo, from the North they come,
from East and West and South:
in Jesus all shall find their rest,
in him the universe be blest.**

Editors of English Praise, 1975 based on Charles Ernest Oakley (1832–1865)

The Preparation of the Table The 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:

As the grain once scattered in the fields and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside are now reunited on this table in bread and wine, so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together from the corners of the earth into your kingdom.

All **Amen.**

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.**

Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor tongue told of a glory like yours, Lord God, for you are the potter, and we the clay, and you fashioned us in your image. Though the pot was broken in your hands in the exile of your people and the rejection of your Son, you made an even more wondrous vessel out of agony and estrangement. In Jesus you glorify your chosen people and inaugurate your church to be his body in the world. In his death the pot was broken once and for all, but in his resurrection you refashioned a new pot from the same clay to feed your people forever. And so we gladly thank you, joining with the company of angels and archangels and all the host of heaven in their unending hymn.

5

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

9

God of power and might,

13

Heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho -

17

- san - na in the high - est.

21

Bles - sed is he, O bles - sed is he who

25

comes in the name of the Lord Ho -

29

- san - na in the high - est Ho -

33

san - na in the high - est.

Ever-present God, your prophets longed that you would tear the heavens and come down; and in your Son Jesus Christ you have come down and filled the earth with the splendour of your dwelling amongst us. In him you were present to friend and stranger, the intrigued and the suspicious, the betrayer and the bereft. Come down now in the power of your Holy Spirit upon this bread and cup and make them 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.**

Word of life, though heaven and earth will pass away, your words will never pass away. As you feed us with this living bread, strengthen those who wonder if they can survive this day; restore any who are downtrodden and heavy-laden; visit all who are forsaken and alone. Open the window of your heaven that your church may glimpse the hope of your glory and your world may be transfigured by the light of your truth, until that day when heaven finally comes to earth, when your Son returns on the clouds and your Spirit infuses your creation with resurrecting grace, and you are all in all, one God, now and forever.

All **Amen.**

Please sit or kneel.

The 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.**

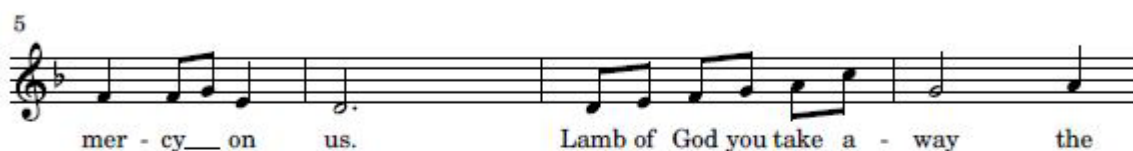
**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

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



Giving of Communion

Behold! Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are all those who are called to his supper.

All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

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 radiant dawn *James MacMillan*

O Radiant Dawn, splendour of eternal light, sun of justice: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. Isaiah had prophesied, 'The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone'. Amen.

Silence is kept.

Prayer after Communion

All **O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Dismissal

Notices

Please stand.

Blessing

The God who brings heaven close to earth give truth to our judgement and flame to our longing that our hearts might be ready to be born again in love; and the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Hymn

**1 Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:**

Alleluia!

God appears on earth to reign.

continued...

2 Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears;
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture,
gaze we on those glorious scars.

3 Yea, Amen, let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory,
claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and John Cennick (1718-1755)

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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