



Sunday 11 February 2024, 10am
The Sunday next before Lent

The Eucharist

Presider
Revd Richard Carter

Preacher
Revd Dr Sam Wells

The Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields

Directed by
Jennifer Sterling

Organist
Phoebe Tak Man Chow

Settings
Mass of St Thomas *Thorne*

Kyrie from Missa O Quam Gloriosum
Victoria

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.

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 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:
all ye who hear,
now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration.**
- 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
shieldeth thee gently from harm, or when fainting sustaineth:
hast thou not seen
how thy heart's wishes have been
granted in what he ordaineth?**
- 3 Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend thee:
ponder anew
what the Almighty can do,
if to the end he befriend thee.**
- 4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen
sound from his people again:
gladly for aye we adore him!**

Lobe den Herren, Joachim Neander (1650–1680), tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827–1878)

Please sit or kneel.

Confession

In penitence and faith let us confess the ways we have dishonoured the image of God in us.

Silence is kept.

Loving God, you make us for glory, but we have turned glory into shame.

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

The choir sings Kyrie eleison.

Merciful God, you made us for love, but we have turned love into resentment.

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

The choir sings Christe eleison.

Glorious God, you made us for mercy, but we have turned mercy into hardness of heart.

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

The choir sings Kyrie eleison.

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 during the Gloria to go to Children's Church.

Please stand.

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 2 Kings 2: 1-12 *read by Lois Howarth*

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?' And he said, 'Yes, I know; keep silent.'

Elijah said to him, 'Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.' But he said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?' And he answered, 'Yes, I know; be silent.'

Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.' But he said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.' Elisha said, 'Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.' He responded, 'You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.' As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them,

and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, 'Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Hear the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6 *read by Eddie Grove*

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

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 'Tis good, Lord, to be here,
thy glory fills the night;
thy face and garments, like the sun,
shine with unborrowed light.
- 2 'Tis good, Lord, to be here,
thy beauty to behold,
where Moses and Elijah stand,
thy messengers of old.
- 3 Fulfiller of the past,
promise of things to be,
we hail thy body glorified,
and our redemption see.

continued after Gospel reading

Gospel Reading Mark 9: 2-9

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

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

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn *continued*

- 4** Before we taste of death,
we see thy kingdom come;
we fain would hold the vision bright,
and make this hill our home.
- 5** 'Tis good, Lord, to be here,
yet we may not remain;
but since thou bidst us leave the mount,
come with us to the plain.

Joseph Armitage Robinson (1858–1933)

Please sit.

Sermon Revd Dr Sam Wells

Anthem The Transfiguration *Jeremy Filsell*

The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us; we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. And after six days Jesus took Peter, James and John his brother, and brought them up into a high mountain, and there he was transfigured before them: His face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.

Text from the Gospels of Mark and John

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 Jeff Claxton*

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.

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 Bright the vision that delighted
once the sight of Judah's seer;
sweet the countless tongues united
to entrance the prophet's ear.**
- 2 Round the Lord in glory seated
cherubim and seraphim
filled his temple, and repeated
each to each the alternate hymn:**

continued...

- 3 'Lord, thy glory fills the heaven;
earth is with its fullness stored;
unto thee be glory given,
holy, holy, holy, Lord.'
- 4 Heaven is still with glory ringing,
earth takes up the angels' cry,
'Holy, holy, holy,' singing,
'Lord of hosts, the Lord most high.'
- 5 With his seraph train before him,
with his holy church below,
thus unite we to adore him,
bid we thus our anthem flow:

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

- 6 'Lord, thy glory fills the heaven;
earth is with its fullness stored;
unto thee be glory given,
holy, holy, holy, Lord.'

Richard Mant (1776-1848) based on Isaiah 6: 1-6

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.

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 power and might, Heaven and earth are
 full of your glory. 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 preferred language.

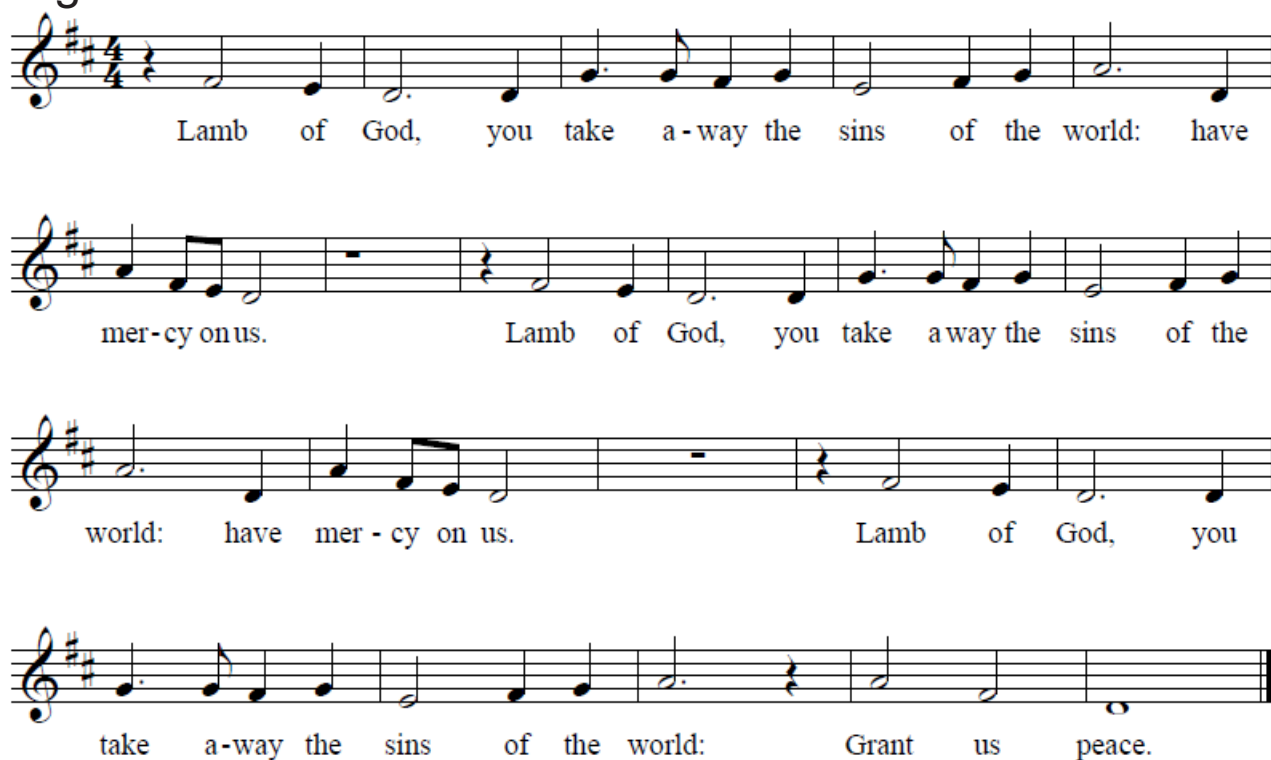
All **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are 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



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a way 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

Jesus is the bread of life: whoever comes to him will never hunger, and whoever believes in him will never thirst.

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*

O nata lux de lumine, Jesu redemptor saeculi, dignare clemens supplicum laudes precesque summere. Qui carne quondam contegi dignatus es pro perditis, nos membra confer effici tui beati corporis.

O Light born of Light, Jesus, redeemer of the world, with loving-kindness deign to receive suppliant praise and prayer. Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh for the sake of the lost, grant us to be members of thy blessed body.

10th century hymn

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

May the Father unfold to you his wisdom, may the Son make you alive to his glory, may the Spirit live in your heart with love. 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 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven
who like me his praise should sing?
Alleluia, alleluia,
praise the everlasting King.**

**2 Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him still the same for ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless:
Alleluia, alleluia,
glorious in his faithfulness.**

**3 Father-like he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes:
Alleluia, alleluia,
widely as his mercy flows.**

continued...

- 4 Frail as summer's flower we flourish,
blows the wind and it is gone;
but, while mortals rise and perish,
God endures unchanging on.
Alleluia, alleluia,
praise the high eternal One.
- 5 Angels, help us to adore him,
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space:
Alleluia, alleluia,
praise with us the God of grace.

Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847) based on Psalm 103

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

Organ Voluntary Toccata *E. Gigout*

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

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