



Sunday 18 February 2024, 10.00am
The First Sunday of Lent

The Eucharist

Presider
Revd Catherine Duce

Preacher
Revd Dr Sam Wells

Community Choir

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 Lent Prose

Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee. To thee, Redeemer, on thy throne of glory: lift we our weeping eyes in holy pleadings: listen, O Jesu, to our supplications. Refrain O thou chief Corner-stone, Right Hand of the Father Way of Salvation, Gate of Life Celestial cleanse thou our sinful souls from all defilement. *Refrain* God, we implore thee, in thy glory seated bow down and hearken to thy weeping children pity and pardon all our grievous trespasses. *Refrain* Sins oft committed now we lay before thee with true contrition, now no more we veil them grant us, Redeemer, loving absolution. *Refrain* Innocent, captive, taken unresisting falsely accused, and for us sinners sentenced, save us, we pray thee, Jesu our Redeemer. *Refrain*

'Attende, Domine', anonymous Latin from the Mozarabic Breviary (5th to 8th century), compiled by Dom Pothier (fl. 1824)

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 Forty days and forty nights
thou wast fasting in the wild,
forty days and forty nights
tempted and yet undefiled.**
- 2 Sunbeams scorching all the day,
chilly dew-drops nightly shed
prowling beasts about thy way,
stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.**

continued...

3 Shall not we thy sorrows share,
and from earthly joys abstain,
fasting with unceasing prayer,
glad with thee to suffer pain?

4 So shall we have peace divine,
holier gladness ours shall be,
round us too shall angels shine,
such as ministered to thee.

5 Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
ever constant by thy side,
that with thee we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide.

George Hunt Smyttan (1822-70) and Francis Pott (1832-1909)

Please sit or kneel.

Confession

Let us confess our sins, so that we may know God fully, as we are fully known.

Silence is kept.

You enter the desert to face the hardest truth; we live in self-deception.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

You offer the bread that gives true life; we consume what leaves us
craving more.

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

You refuse to worship empty power; we let greed rule our world.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

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.**

The Collect

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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 9: 8-17 *read by Sean Curtin*

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

Hear the word of the Lord

All **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading 1 Peter 3: 18-end *read by Eloise Warner*

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a

proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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 **When Jesus came to Jordan
to be baptised by John,
he did not come for pardon,
but as his Father's Son.
He came to share repentance
with all who mourn their sins,
to speak the vital sentence
with which good news begins.**
- 2 **He came to share temptation,
our utmost woe and loss,
for us and our salvation
to die upon the cross.
So when the Dove descended
on him, the Son of Man,
the hidden years had ended,
the age of grace began.**

continued after Gospel reading

Gospel Reading Mark 1: 9-15

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

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

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' And the Spirit immediately

drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn *continued*

3 **Come, Holy Spirit, aid us
to keep the vows we make,
this very day invade us,
and every bondage break.
Come, give our lives direction,
the gift we covet most:
to share the resurrection
that leads to Pentecost.**

Fred Pratt Green (1903–2000)

Please sit after the opening prayer.

Sermon Revd Dr Sam Wells

Anthem Wade in the Water/Sometimes I feel like a Motherless
Child/I wanna go easy when I die *Trad.*

Please stand.

The 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 Flora Saxby*

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** **Jesu, lover of my soul,
let me to thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll,
while the tempest still is high:
hide me, O my Saviour, hide,
till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last.**

- 2** **Other refuge have I none,
hangs my helpless soul on thee;
leave, ah, leave me not alone,
still support and comfort me.
All my trust on thee is stayed,
all my help from thee I bring;
cover my defenceless head
with the shadow of thy wing.**

- 3** **Thou, O Christ, art all I want;
more than all in thee I find;
raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is thy name,
I am all unrighteousness;
false and full of sin I am,
thou art full of truth and grace.**

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

continued...

**4 Plenteous grace with thee is found,
grace to cover all my sin;
let the healing streams abound,
make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art,
freely let me take of thee,
spring thou up within my heart,
rise to all eternity.**

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

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.

Blessed are you, God of everlasting covenant, for your promises are steadfast and your provision is sure. Through your people's desert of forty years you were constant in fire and cloud; with manna and mercy you sustained every step. You made Jesus' temptation of forty days a theatre of truth where your Word stood strong. In every age you have shaped your people through times of wilderness and wandering, of temptation and trial, and brought them into the land of promise and the life of covenant. And so with all who have walked the wilderness way in every time and all who walk it this day, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we join the unending hymn.

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

5
God of power and might,

9
Heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho -

13
- san - na in the high - est.

17
Bles - sed is he, O bles - sed is he who

21
comes in the name of the Lord Ho -

25
- san - na in the high - est Ho -

29
san - na in the high - est.

Enduring God, as you sustained Jesus in hunger and thirst, through this meal strengthen us to keep our Lenten fast. Send your Holy Spirit upon us as we remember Jesus' saving passion; transform our insatiable desires into hunger for the feast of this table. Send your Holy Spirit upon this bread and wine that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ. Who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, blessed and broke it and gave it to them saying, 'This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' After supper he took the cup, again he gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples saying, 'This is the blood of the new covenant poured out 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.**

Forgiving God, in this season of repentance, make your mercy sufficient for every need. Come to your children who are in their own wilderness and make their wanderings holy paths of learning your truth. Strengthen all who face the threshold of temptation or the tumult of trial. Seek those whose hearts are contrite and meet them with grace. Come alongside your children who suffer under the sin of another and give them power to live as your beloved sons and daughters. Renew your church from the depths of your heart, where justice and mercy meet. Bring us with all your saints to the day when all who watch and pray for your kingdom behold your salvation and meet you in your resurrection, God most glorious, 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

Torn between anger at our sin and never-ending love for all creation we see the broken heart of God.

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin_ of the_ world,_____ have

5
mer - cy_ on us. Lamb of God you take a - way the

9
sin_ of the_ world,_____ have mer - cy_ on us.

13
Lamb of God you take a - way the sin_ of the world,

17
grant_____ us peace

Giving of Communion

Come, share the living bread, and let God turn you from dust and ashes to living stones.

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 for a closer walk with God *Stanford*

O for a closer walk with God, a calm and heavenly frame; a light to shine upon the road that leads me to the Lamb! Return, O holy dove, return, sweet messenger of rest; I hate the sins that made thee mourn, and drove thee from my breast. So shall my walk be close with God, calm and serene my frame; so purer light shall mark the road that leads me to the Lamb.

William Cowper (1731-1800)

Silence is kept.

Prayer after Communion

All **Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Dismissal

Notices

Please stand.

Blessing

Take our lives, and let them be consecrated Lord to thee, take our moments and our days: let them flow in ceaseless praise. 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 Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us
for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing every blessing,
if our God our Father be.**
- 2 Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us;
all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
lone and dreary, faint and weary,
through the desert thou didst go.**

continued...

**3 Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy:
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.**

James Edmeston (1791-1867)

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

Blessing Anthem Irish Blessing *Bob Chilcott*

May the road rise to meet you, may the wind be ever at your back, may the sun shine warm upon your face, and the rain fall soft upon your fields, and until we meet again, may God hold you, ever in the palm of his hand.

Trad.

Organ Voluntary Master Tallis's Testament *Howells*

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

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