



Sunday 4 February 2024, 10.00am
The Second Sunday before Lent

The Eucharist

Presider
Revd Richard Carter

Preacher
Revd Catherine Duce

The Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields

Directed by
Jennifer Sterling

Organist
Phoebe Tak Man Chow

Setting
St Martin's Mass *Bednall*

⊕ 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 Holy is the True Light *Harris*

Holy is the True Light, and passing wonderful, lending radiance to them that endured in the heat of the conflict, from Christ they inherit a home of unfading splendour, wherein they rejoice with gladness evermore. Alleluia!

From the Salisbury Diurnal, tr. G.H. Palmer (1846-1926)

Welcome

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 O worship the King, all glorious above;
O gratefully sing his power and his love;
our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendour and girded with praise.**
- 2 O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;
his chariots of wrath the deep thunder clouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.**
- 3 Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distils in the dew and the rain.**
- 4 Frail children of dust and feeble as frail,
in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;
thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer, and Friend.**

continued...

**5 O measureless might, ineffable love,
while angels delight to hymn thee above,
thy humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
with true adoration shall sing to thy praise.**

Robert Grant (1779-1838) based on Psalm 104

Please sit or kneel.

Confession

God's love for us never ends. Let us confess the ways our love for God has fallen short of God's love for us.

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.

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.

Please stand.

Gloria in Excelsis *see opposite*

The Collect

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever.

All Amen.

Please sit.

Gloria in Excelsis

f
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo-ple on earth. Lord God, hea-ven-ly king, al-migh - ty God and
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks we praise you for your
mp
glo-ry. 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 seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther, re -
Org.
ceive our prayer.
f
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
ff
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men, a - -
-men, a - - - - men.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Proverbs 8: 1, 22-31 *read by Valentina Chan*

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth—when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil. When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.

Hear the word of the Lord

All **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading Colossians 1: 15-20 *read by Beverley Logan*

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

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 Lord of every shining constellation
that wheels in splendour through the midnight sky,
grant us your Spirit's true illumination
to read the secrets of your work on high.**
- 2 **You, Lord, have made the atom's hidden forces,
your laws its mighty energies fulfil;
teach us, to whom you give such rich resources,
in all we use, to serve your holy will.**
- 3 **O Life, awaking life in cell and tissue,
from flower to bird, from beast to humankind;
help us to trace, from birth to final issue,
the sure unfolding purpose of your mind.**

continued after Gospel reading

Gospel Reading John 1: 1-14

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

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn *continued*

- 4 **Great Lord of nature, shaping and renewing,
you made us more than nature's child to be;
you help us tread, with grace our souls enduing,
the road to life and immortality.**

Albert Frederick Bayly (1901-1984)

Please sit after the opening prayer.

Sermon Revd Catherine Duce

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.

Antiphon

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.

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

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 All creatures of our God and King
lift up your voice and with us sing
alleluia, alleluia.**
**Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam,
*O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.***
- 2 Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise him, alleluia.**
**Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice;
*Chorus***
- 3 Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for thy Lord to hear,
alleluia, alleluia.**
**Thou fire so masterful and bright,
that givest us both warmth and light:
*Chorus***
- 4 Dear mother earth, who day by day
unfoldest blessings on our way,
O praise him, alleluia.**
**The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,
let them his glory also show:
*Chorus***

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

continued...

- 5 Let all things their creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness;
O praise him, alleluia.
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One;
Chorus**

William Henry Draper (1855-1933) based on St Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)

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, who feeds the hungry, who raises the poor, who fills our praise.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

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.**

God our companion, from before the foundation of the world you shaped your own life to be in relationship, and in creation you extended that tender mercy that all things might find their identity in being with you. You animated the universe and you set the sky, the sea and the land in due order. You filled your whole earth with life and breath. You bestowed your image upon humankind, and called us to reflect your glory. In Christ you fulfilled your covenant purpose, embodying your constancy, renewing our destiny with you, and becoming the Sabbath of your joy. His death was the judgement of your wayward world, yet his resurrection was the promise of your everlasting kingdom. And so we gather at your table as angels and archangels gather around your throne, singing the song of thanks and praise.

Org. *f* Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of po-wer and

ff might. Heav'n and Earth are full of your glo-ry, Ho - san - na in the high-est.

Org. *p* Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the

pp Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Restoring God, your creation never runs out and your mercy never fails. Make this banquet in your name a celebration of your abundance in offering and renewing love. Send your Holy Spirit upon your people, that they may again be inspired by the breath of your life. Sanctify this bread and cup that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son. 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.

In the beginning was your Word, Lord God, and in the beginning your Spirit hovered over the deep. Speak your word today where the condition of your creation reflects how far your children have strayed from you. Bring a climate of hope; replenish the species of the earth in diversity and beauty; breathe your Spirit of transformation on icecap and desert, on mountain and prairie; teach your people the ways of gentleness and the paths of peace. As you stretch out your hand of companionship to humankind in Christ, by your Holy Spirit heal their relationship with your hurting world. Turn danger to discovery, scarcity to partnership, and exploitation to cherishing; until your groaning creation finds its eager longing met in the harvest of your kingdom, and you are all in all, Trinity of glory.

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

Lord make your word flesh.

All **And fill us with grace and truth.**

Agnus Dei

p Lamb of God; you take a-way the sin of the
mp world: have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God; you take a - way the sin of the
mf world: have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God; you take a-way the sin of the
p world: *pp* grant us peace.

Giving of Communion

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come and share God's heavenly food.

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 Hail, gladdening light Wood

Hail, gladdening light, of his pure glory poured who is the immortal Father, heavenly, blest, holiest of holies, Jesu Christ, our Lord. Now we are come to the sun's hour of rest, the lights of evening round us shine, we hymn the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit Divine. Worthiest art thou at all times to be sung with undefiled tongue, Son of our God, giver of life alone! Therefore in all the world thy glories, Lord, they own. Amen.

2nd or 3rd century, trs. John Keble (1792-1866)

Silence is kept.

Prayer after Communion

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever.

All **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 **Christ triumphant ever reigning,
Saviour, Master, King!
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,
hear us as we sing:
*Yours the glory and the crown,
the high renown, the eternal name.***
- 2 **Word incarnate, truth revealing,
Son of Man on earth!
power and majesty concealing
by your humble birth:
*Chorus***
- 3 **Suffering servant, scorned, ill-treated,
victim crucified!
death is through the cross defeated,
sinners justified:
*Chorus***

continued...

4 **Priestly king, enthroned for ever
high in heaven above!
sin and death and hell shall never
stifle hymns of love:
*Yours the glory and the crown,
the high renown, the eternal name.***

5 **So, our hearts and voices raising
through the ages long,
ceaselessly upon you gazing,
this shall be our song:
*Chorus***

Michael Seward (1932–2015)

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

Organ Voluntary Toccata *Widor*

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

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O Lord of every shining constellation, © Oxford University Press; *Christ triumphant, ever reigning*, © Mrs E R Hudson/
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