



Sunday 10 March 2024, 10.00am
The Fourth Sunday of Lent
Mothering Sunday

The Eucharist

Presider
Revd Angela Sheard

Preacher
Revd Richard Carter

Soloist
Alex Milne

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. Toilet access is available, please ask a welcomer.

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. Sins oft committed now we lay before thee with true contrition, now no more we veil them grant us, Redeemer, loving absolution. Hear us...

'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 Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
he whose word cannot be broken
formed thee for his own abode.
On the Rock of ages founded,
what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
thou may'st smile at all thy foes.**
- 2 See, the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters,
and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
ever flows their thirst to assuage:
grace which, like the Lord the giver,
never fails from age to age?**

continued...

**3 Saviour, if of Zion's city
I through grace a member am,
let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in thy name.
Fading is the worldling's pleasure,
all his boasted pomp and show;
solid joys and lasting treasure,
none but Zion's children know.**

John Newton (1725-1807)

Please sit or kneel.

Confession

God of love, you long to gather us as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but we go our own way. Draw us back to your generous love, as we confess our sins to you in trust and faith.

Silence.

Your love gives us life from the moment of conception. We fail to live as your children.

Lord have mercy.

All **Lord have mercy.**

You call us to do good. We seek our own good.

Christ, have mercy.

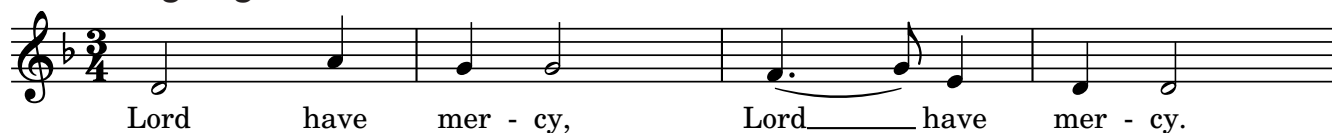
All **Christ have mercy.**

You hear us when we cry for help. We ignore the cries of others.

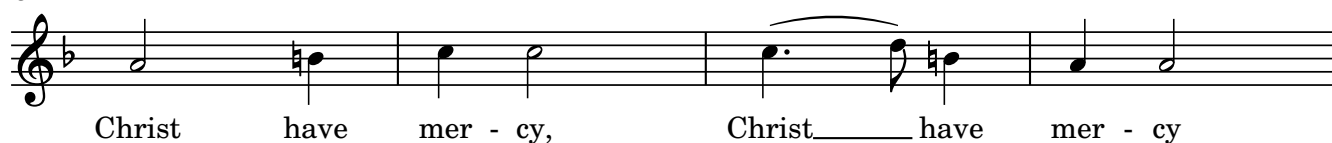
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord have mercy.**

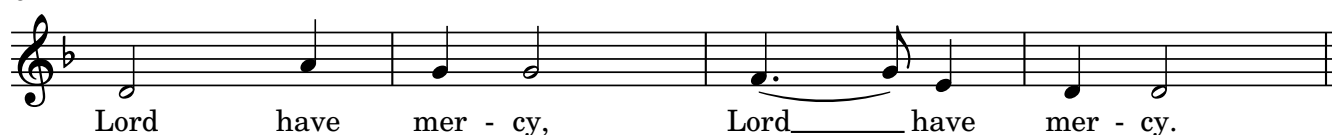
We sing together



5



9



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

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; 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 Numbers 21: 4-9 *read by Kristine Wellington*

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.' Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people,

so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, 'Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.' So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Hear the word of the Lord

All **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading Ephesians 2: 1-10 *read by Lawrence Warner*

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

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 Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant, too.**

continued...

- 2 **We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.**
- 3 **I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.**
- 4 **I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh, I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.**

continued after Gospel reading

Gospel Reading John 3: 14-21

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

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

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

‘For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

‘Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn *continued*

- 5 **When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.**
- 6 **Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace
to let you be my servant, too.**

Richard Gillard (b. 1953)

Please sit after the opening prayer.

Sermon Revd Richard Carter

Anthem For the beauty of the earth *John Rutter*

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies, for the love which from our birth over and around us lies: *Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.* For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night, hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light: *Lord of all...* For the joy of love, brother, sister, parent, child, friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild: *Lord of all...* For each perfect gift of thine, to our race so freely given, graces human and divine, flow'rs of earth and buds of heav'n: *Lord of all...*

F. S. Pierpont (1835-1917)

Please stand.

Creed

- All* **As truly as God is our Father, so just as truly is he our Mother.
In our Father, God Almighty, we have our being;
in our merciful Mother we are remade and restored.
Our fragmented lives are knit together.
And by giving and yielding ourselves, through grace,
to the Holy Spirit, we are made whole.
God is the strength and goodness of Fatherhood.
God is the wisdom of Motherhood.
God is the light and grace of holy life.
God is the Trinity. God is unity.
God is the sovereign goodness in all things.**

**God teaches us to love.
God teaches us to desire.
God is the reward of all true desiring.
All shall be well, and all shall be well,
and all manner of thing shall be well.**

Julian of Norwich (1342-1416)

Please sit or kneel.

Prayers of Intercession *led by Susannah Woodd*

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

***All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful
the Lord God made them all.***

1 Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
he made their glowing colours,
he made their tiny wings:

Refrain

2 The purple headed mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset and the morning
that brightens up the sky:

Refrain

3 The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden,
he made them every one:

Refrain

4 The tall trees in the greenwood,
the meadows where we play,
the rushes by the water
we gather every day:

Refrain

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

5 He gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God almighty,
who has made all things well:

Refrain

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)

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:

God of mercy and compassion, your Word calls us home to faith and love. Accept all we offer you this day; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

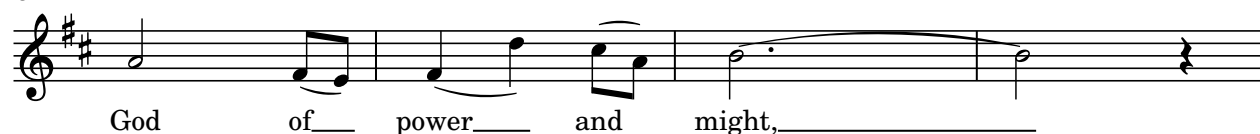
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

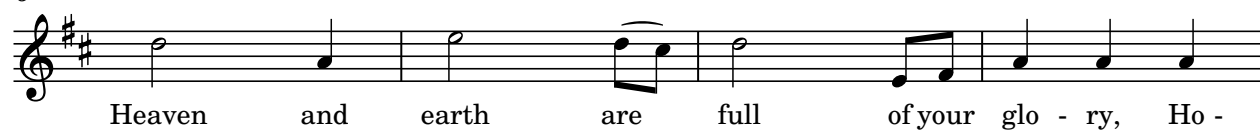
Cradling God, we thank and praise you because like a mother you brought all things into being. Through trial and truth-telling, touch and tenderness you nurtured a people and led them in the ways of justice and of peace. When the time came for you to dwell among us in flesh and blood, your Holy Spirit called a woman to be the godbearer, that in her we may behold that our bodies could bring forth your glory. And so we join with angels and archangels and all the household of heaven to sing the song of your eternal joy.



5



9



13



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.

Redeeming God, you called a woman to be closest to your son at the moment of his nativity, at the place of his crucifixion, and in the wonder of his resurrection. Like a mother hen gathering her chicks you draw the weary, the lost and the betrayed to the abundant table of your kingdom. Send your Holy Spirit on your church that it may radiate gladness at its destiny with you. By that same Spirit, sanctify this bread and this cup that they may be for us the body and blood of our Lord 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.

Yearning God, bless every mother who gives and does not count the cost, who toils and does not seek for rest, who labours and does not ask for any reward, save that of knowing that she does your will. Visit, attend, and heal the sadness of those whose calling to be a mother has not been fulfilled. Transfigure the distress of any whose experience of raising a child has meant a sword has pierced their own soul. And come close to all who find they cannot look upon a parent with either gratitude or grace. Hasten the day when the holy city descends like a bride prepared for you, when all desires are known and from you no secrets are hid, ever-living ever-giving God, Trinity of mercy and love.

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

Make yourself known to us, Lord Christ, in the breaking of the bread.

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

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 Ave Maria Schubert

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum. Benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Iesus. Sancta Maria, Mater Dei, ora pro nobis peccatoribus, nunc, et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen. *Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now, and in the hour of our death. Amen.*

Luke 1: 28, 41

Silence is kept.

Prayer after Communion

May Holy Wisdom, kind to humanity, steadfast, sure and free, the breath of the power of God, may she who makes all things new, enter our souls and bodies, and make us friends of God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Notices

Please stand.

Blessing

May the Lord whose steadfast love is constant as a mother's care, send us out to live and work for others; 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 Now thank we all our God,
with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

2 O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.

continued...

**3 All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven,
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore,
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.**

Nun danket alle Gott, Martin Rinkart (1586-1649) tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)

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

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

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March 2024