

St
Martin
in
the
Fields

Sunday 28 April 2024, 10am
The Fifth Sunday of Easter



Image: Norman Kaplan
www.sa2024.org/all-shall-be-afforded-dignity/

The Eucharist

Celebrating 30 years of Democracy in
South Africa

Presider
Revd Richard Carter

Preacher
Revd Xolani Dlwathi

The Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields

Directed by
Jennifer Sterling

Organist
Phoebe Tak Man Chow

Mass Setting
St Martin's Mass *Bednall*

⊕ 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 a children's church group during the service and a fortnightly youth group for teenagers on Sundays at 3.30pm

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 Hamba Nathi *Trad. Xhosa*

Hamba nathi Mkhululi wethu. Mkhululi, Mkhululi, Mkhululi wethu. *You are holy, you show us the way. You show us, you show us, you show us the way.*

Trad. Xhosa

Welcome

Please stand. Silence is kept.

The Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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 The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the word:
from heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy Bride;
with his own blood he bought her
and for her life he died.**

**2 Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses
with every grace endued.**

continued...

- 3** Though with a scornful wonder
they see her sore opprest,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distrest,
yet saints their watch are keeping,
their cry goes up, 'How long?'
and soon the night of weeping
shall be the morn of song.
- 4** 'Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace for evermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.
- 5** Yet she on earth hath union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.

Samuel John Stone (1839-1900)

Please sit or kneel.

Confession

'I will put my spirit within you and you shall live, says the Lord.' Let us come to the Lord who is full of compassion and confess our sins, that we may have life.

Silence.

You call us into your steadfast love. But we have responded with suspicion and fear.

Lord have mercy.

All **Lord have mercy.**

You lead us in the paths of peace; but we have denied your Spirit.
Christ have mercy.

All **Christ have mercy.**

You lift us from death to life; but we have refused to believe.
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.**

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

Please stand.

Gloria in Excelsis *see overleaf*

Collect

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen 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.

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 Acts 8: 26-end *read by Michael Angus*

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.' The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptised?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptised him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Hear the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading 1 John 4: 7-end *read by Anna Gregorowski*

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one

another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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 Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**
- 2 Take my voice, and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee.**
- 3 Take my will, and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart: it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.**

continued after Gospel reading

Gospel Reading John 15: 1-8

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

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

Jesus said, 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn *continued*

**4 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure-store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.**

Frances Ridley Havergal (1836–1879)

Please sit after the opening prayer.

Sermon Revd Xolani Dlwathi

Anthem Indodana *Trad. Xhosa arr. Barrett and Schmitt*

Ngob'umthatile umtwana wakho, uhlale nathi hololo helele. Indodana ka nkulunkulu bayi'bethelela hololo helele. Hololo Baba Jehova. Zjem zja baba. *The Lord has taken his Son who lived amongst us, the Son of the Lord God was crucified. (Hololo represents crying and has no translation) Father Jehovah. (Zjem zja is expressive with no meaning) Father.*

Trad. Xhosa

Please stand.

Creed

Let us declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All **Christ died for our sins
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he was buried;
he was raised to life on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures;
afterwards he appeared to his followers,
and to all the apostles:
this we have received,
and this we believe.
Amen.**

1 Corinthians 15. 3-7

Please sit or kneel.

The Prayers of Intercession *led by Fiona MacMillan*

The response to the prayers is:

God of love,
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

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said 'Peace be with you.' Then they were glad when they saw the Lord.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
All **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** Come down, O Love divine,
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.
- 2** O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.
- 3** Let holy charity
mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart,
which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

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

- 4** And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace,
till he become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

Discendi, amor santo Bianco da Siena (d. 1434) tr. Richard Frederick Littledale (1833-1890)

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:

Yours Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

All 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.

Abiding God, you planted the vineyard of creation, and called your chosen people to be your vine, rooted and grounded in you. In Jesus you gave us the true vine, turning earth into grapes and the water of life into the wine of eternal life. Through your son you abide in us and in the power of your Holy Spirit you shape the branches of the vine to make fruit that will last. In this meal of creation, of resurrection, and of everlasting life, you pour out the wine of your abundance to give us eternal joy in you. And so we gladly thank you, with angels and archangels, and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending 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.

Transforming God, your son took the ordinary substance of human flesh and bone; and on his last night with his friends he took the ordinary materials of bread and wine. Come among us now, and take the ordinariness of our lives and make them glow with the wonder of your eternal life. Take these gifts of bread and wine and make them 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.**

Companionable God, you turn word into flesh, and your perfect love casts out our fear. You give us a way to love you by giving us brothers and sisters to love as we love you. Abide with all whose lives are far from fruitful; remain with those who have experienced pruning; dwell with any who feel like branches that have been discarded. Unite your whole church, living and departed, as branches of your one vine, and through being rooted and grounded in you, make us fruitful in body, mind and spirit, until we stand before you, with your whole creation, and you are all in all, 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

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

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

All **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

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 Ukuthula Trad. Zulu

Ukuthula, kulomhlabawezono, alleluia, Igazi lika Jesu linyenyez' ukuthula. Usindiso, kulomhlabawezono, alleluia, Igazi lika Jesu linyenyez' usindiso. Ukubonga, kulomhlabawezono, alleluia, Igazi lika Jesu linyenyez' ukubonga. Ukukholwa, kulomhlabawezono, alleluia, Igazi lika Jesu linyenyez' ukukholwa. Ukunqoba, kulomhlabawezono, alleluia, Igazi lika Jesu linyenyez' ukunqoba. Induduso, kulomhlabawezono, alleluia, Igazi lika Jesu linyenyez' induduso. *Peace, in this world of sin, alleluia, the blood of Jesus brings peace. Redemption, in this world of sin, alleluia, the blood of Jesus brings redemption. Praise, in this world of sin, alleluia, the blood of Jesus brings praise. Faith, in this world of sin, alleluia, the blood of Jesus brings faith. Victory, in this world of sin, alleluia, the blood of Jesus brings victory. Comfort, in this world of sin, alleluia, the blood of Jesus brings comfort.*

Trad. Zulu

Silence is kept.

The Prayer after Communion

All Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his rise life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen.

The Dismissal

Notices

Please stand.

Blessing

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, through the power of the Holy Spirit; 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 **Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.**
- 2 **Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.**
- 3 **Finish then thy new creation:
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation,
perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

All **In the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Organ Voluntary Praeludium in G minor BuxWV 149 *Buxtehude*

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

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