

St  
Martin  
in  
the  
Fields

Sunday 2 February 2025, 10am

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

# The Eucharist



*Simeon in the Temple*, 1669  
Rembrandt

Presider and Preacher  
Revd Richard Carter

The Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields

Directed by  
Jennifer Sterling

Organist  
Matthew Morrison

Mass Setting  
Kyrie from 'Sunrise Mass' *Ola Gjeilo*

⊕ Common Worship

Kilcreggan Mass *Peter Nardone*

## Welcome

Our welcomers are available to assist with any of the following information. Toilets are 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 outside 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 or mental health issues, or are neurodivergent. The order of service is online. Large print copies are also 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. A youth group for teenagers meets monthly on Sunday afternoons.

**Welcome** to anyone in need of safeguarding. If you would like to reach our safeguarding team, you can email [safeguarding@smitf.org](mailto:safeguarding@smitf.org).

**Welcome** to all heritages and experiences of race, culture and language. At the Lord's Prayer, all are invited to bring the gift of our preferred 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 of no professed faith or are from a faith tradition other than 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 [beingwith@smitf.org](mailto:beingwith@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 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.**

*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 Hail to the Lord's Anointed,  
great David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed,  
his reign on earth begun!  
He comes to break oppression,  
to set the captive free,  
to take away transgression,  
and rule in equity.**
- 2 He comes with succour speedy  
to those who suffer wrong;  
to help the poor and needy,  
and bid the weak be strong;  
to give them songs for sighing,  
their darkness turn to light,  
whose souls, condemned and dying,  
were precious in his sight.**

*continued...*

**3 Kings shall fall down before him,  
and gold and incense bring;  
all nations shall adore him,  
his praise all people sing;  
to him shall prayer unceasing  
and daily vows ascend,  
his kingdom still increasing,  
a kingdom without end.**

*James Montgomery (1771-1854)*

*Please sit or kneel.*

### Confession

God transforms what is ordinary into the life of the kingdom. Let us confess our reluctance to enter that generous life.

*Silence is kept.*

You invite us to be bearers of good news; but we are reluctant to be your servants.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

*The choir sings Kyrie eleison.*

You always have more to give; but we hold back.

*All* **Christ, have mercy.**

*The choir sings Christe eleison.*

You reveal your glory in signs and wonders; but we refuse to believe.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

*The choir sings Kyrie eleison.*

The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon and forgiveness of all your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit.

*All* **Amen.**

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


*Please stand.*

# Glora in Excelsis




Glo - ry to God, to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on

4



earth. Lord God, heav - en-ly King al - migh - ty God and

8



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

11




praise you for your glo - ry, we wor - ship you, we

14




give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

18



Glo - ry to God, to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.

22



Glo - ry to God, to god in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.

26



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,

30



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have

34



mer - cy on us, you are sea - ted at the right hand of the

38



Fa - ther: re - cieve our prayer, re -

42

- ceive our prayer.\_\_\_\_\_

46

For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

50

you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, you a -

54

- lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the

58

glo - ry of God, of God the Fa - ther, A - men, A -

62

men

### Collect

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ 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 Malachi 3: 1-5 *read by Lawrence Warner*

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

Hear the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading Hebrews 2: 14-end *read by Eugene Ling*

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.

Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

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 Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ, the true, the only light,  
Sun of righteousness, arise,  
triumph o'er the shades of night;  
Dayspring from on high, be near;  
Daystar, in my heart appear.**

**2 Dark and cheerless is the morn  
unaccompanied by thee:  
joyless is the day's return,  
till thy mercy's beams I see,  
till they inward light impart,  
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.**

*continued after Gospel reading*

## Gospel Reading Luke 2: 22-40

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

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

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in



Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn *continued*

**3 Visit then this soul of mine;  
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
fill me, radiancy divine;  
scatter all my unbelief;  
more and more thyself display,  
shining to the perfect day.**

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

*Please sit after the opening prayer.*

Sermon Revd Richard Carter

Anthem Nunc dimittis *Burgon*

Nunc dimittis servum tuum, Domine, secundum verbum tuum in pace: quia viderunt oculi mei salutare tuum quod parasti ante faciem omnium populorum: lumen ad revelationem gentium, et gloriam plebis tuae Israel. *Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people; a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.*

*Luke 2: 29-32*

*Please stand.*

## An Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

*All* **who conjured light from darkness,  
who drew land from endless oceans,  
who seeded fruit and flower,  
who laid forests, deserts, plains,  
who sowed the sea with shoals  
who scattered birds across the sky,  
who set land pelting with the chase of life,  
who mapped and lit the constellations,  
who made men and women to be like him,  
who become like them,  
who was punished for love and freedom,  
who was nailed to a tree,  
who made that tree a bridge from God to humankind,  
who overpowered death,  
who walked, talked, ate, sang and loved,  
who rose in glory when his Father called,  
who calls us now, and we repond:  
Glory be to the Father in heaven,  
to the Son who walked among us,  
to the Spirit whose breath is life.  
Amen.**

*Please sit or kneel.*

Prayers of Intercession *led by Flora Saxby*

*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

*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 Praise to the Holiest in the height,  
and in the depth be praise:  
in all his words most wonderful,  
most sure in all his ways.**
- 2 O loving wisdom of our God!  
When all was sin and shame,  
a second Adam to the fight  
and to the rescue came.**
- 3 O wisest love! that flesh and blood,  
which did in Adam fail,  
should strive afresh against the foe,  
should strive and should prevail;**
- 4 And that a higher gift than grace  
should flesh and blood refine,  
God's presence and his very self,  
and essence all-divine.**
- 5 O generous love! that he, who came  
as man to smite our foe,  
the double agony for us  
as man should undergo.**

*continued...*

**6 And in the garden secretly,  
and on the cross on high,  
should teach his followers, and inspire  
to suffer and to die.**

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

**7 Praise to the Holiest in the height,  
and in the depth be praise:  
in all his words most wonderful,  
most sure in all his ways.**

*John Henry Newman (1801-1890)*

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:*

Lord Jesus Christ, as we meet you in these gifts of bread and wine, may our eyes see your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.

*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.**

We lift our hearts to give you thanks and praise, Lord God, because you made your whole creation a temple of your glory and invited us into it to enjoy you forever. When you called Israel out of Egypt you made yourself known through your covenant in a tabernacle of your presence. In Solomon you allowed your people to meet you in a temple built by human hands. Finally in Simeon you showed us what it means to wait faithfully to see your salvation in your incarnate Son, in whom your own heart was pierced that we might be made one with you. In your Son's death the temple of his body was destroyed but in three days you raised him to be the place of our dwelling with you forever. And so with angels and archangels and the whole host of heaven, we join in the eternal song of your glory.

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

5 Lord God of hosts.

9 Hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry, ho -

13 - sa - na in the high - est.

17 Bles sed is he that comes in the name 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.

God of peace and light, you have prepared a table before us in the presence of all peoples, and you have made it a gift of revelation and glory. Your servant Anna waited for you with fasting and prayer night and day. Visit your people that the secrets of our hearts may be laid bare and the secret of your heart be revealed; and make your people holy as you are holy. Send your Holy Spirit on this bread and this wine, 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.**

Consoling God, as Mary and Joseph offered a sacrifice in your temple, bring comfort to all who feel today like they are being sacrificed by the cruel, the merciless, or the fanatical. As Simeon foresaw your Son would be a sign that would be opposed, bless any who face hostility, anger, and violence. As the holy family realised a sword would pierce their own soul, speak tenderly to those whose soul knows despair, loss, or betrayal. Make your church strong, fill your children with wisdom, and set your favour upon all who turn to you; until that day when heaven and earth become a temple of your praise and your resurrection engulfs all you have made, ever one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*All* **Amen.**

*Please sit or kneel.*

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 life of the Lord.

**All** God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us light and life.

### Agnus Dei



5



9



### Giving of Communion

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**All** Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

*Communicant members of all Christian Churches are invited to receive Holy Communion. Bread and wine are available in the central aisle and both side aisles. Gluten-free bread and non-alcoholic wine are available in the south aisle upon request from the assistant. If you wish to receive communion in your seat, do let a steward know.*



## Communion Anthem When to the temple Mary went *Eccard*

When to the temple Mary went, and brought the Holy Child, him did the aged Simeon see, as it had been revealed. He took up Jesus in his arms and blessing God he said: In peace I now depart, my Saviour having seen, the hope of Israel, the Light of men. Help now thy servants, gracious Lord, that we may ever be as once the faithful Simeon was, rejoicing but in thee; and when we must from earth departure take, may gently fall aslepp and with Thee wake.

*Johannes Eccard (1553-1611) tr. John Troutbeck (1832-1899)*

*Silence is kept.*

## Prayer after Communion

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who lived to welcome the Messiah: may we, who have received these gifts beyond words, prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us to eternal life; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

## The Dismissal

### Notices

*Please stand.*

### Blessing

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; strengthen the faint hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour everyone; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in 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.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

## Blessing Anthem Peace I leave with you *Beach*

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you. Not as the world giveth give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled.

*Unknown*

## Organ Voluntary

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





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