



Sunday 16 November 2025, 10am
The Second Sunday Before Advent

The Eucharist

Safeguarding Sunday

Presider
Revd Richard Carter

Preacher
Revd Andrew Woodward

The Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields

Directed by
Jennifer Sterling

Organist
Benjamin Frost

Mass Setting
St Martin's Mass *Bednall*

⊕ Common Worship

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@smidf.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@smidf.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

Introit And they shall beat their swords into ploughshares *James Davy*

Alleluia. And they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. Alleluia.

Isaiah 2: 4

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 Extol the God of justice
with heart and soul and voice;
remember all his wonders,
recount them and rejoice.
He stands with all who labour
for what is true and right,
till wickedness and falsehood
are banished from his sight.**
- 2 Extol the God of justice
enthroned for evermore,
a stronghold in affliction,
a refuge to the poor:
he hears the cry of victims
and senses their despair;
in faithfulness he honours
the faith that sparks our prayer.**

continued...

**3 Extol the God of justice,
however dark the day:
the hope that calls for mercy
will not be turned away;
for evil shall not triumph,
nor human sin prevail:
the Lord is God eternal,
whose judgements cannot fail.**

Martin Leckebusch (b. 1962) based on Psalm 9

Please sit or kneel.

Confession

God, you have called us into freedom, but we confess we have not always used that freedom rightly.

Silence is kept.

You made your church to be place of safety and refuge, yet people have been hurt and harmed.

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

You call your church be a voice for the voiceless and the oppressed, yet we have remained silent and not spoken out about injustice.

Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

You send your church to be an example of love to the world, yet we have been selfish and not shown love to those who are hurting.

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ gave us the perfect example of love and compassion; forgive us our sins, open our eyes to your truth, open our hearts to your justice strengthen us to do your will, and make us, your church, a place of safety and refuge for all, 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

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in 4/4 time. It begins in C major and transitions to B-flat major at the start of the fourth staff. Dynamics include *f* (forte), *mp* (mezzo-piano), *Org.* (organ), and *ff* (fortissimo). The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words split across lines. The score concludes with a final whole note on a half rest.

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.

Collect

God of compassion, our refuge and strength, defender of the weak, the weary, and the oppressed, open your arms to your children who come to you with humble and thankful hearts. You call us to be like you, to speak up for all who are vulnerable. Make this community a place of safety for all. Open our ears to listen to those who are hurting, to learn from Jesus' example, and to love one another as you first loved us. In Christ your beloved Son our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Please sit.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Psalm 91: 1-4 *read by Kristine Wellington,
Safeguarding Officer*

You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.' For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence; he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

Hear the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading 1 John 3: 16-24 *read by Sherry Taylor,
Safeguarding Lead*

We know love by this, that God laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded

us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

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 **We cannot measure how you heal
or answer every sufferer's prayer,
yet we believe your grace responds
where faith and doubt unite to care.
Your hands, though bloodied on the cross,
survive to hold and heal and warn,
to carry all through death to life
and cradle children yet unborn.**
- 2 **The pain that will not go away,
the guilt that clings from things long past,
the fear of what the future holds,
are present as if meant to last.
But present too is love which tends
the hurt we never hoped to find,
the private agonies inside,
the memories that haunt the mind.**

continued after Gospel reading

Gospel Reading Luke 21: 5-19

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, Jesus said, 'As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.'

They asked him, 'Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?' And he said, 'Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and, "The time is near!" Do not go after them.

'When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.' Then he said to them, 'Nation will rise against nation,

and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

‘But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defence in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn *continued*

**3 So some have come who need your help,
and some have come to make amends,
as hands which shaped and saved the world
are present in the touch of friends.
Lord, let your Spirit meet us here
to mend the body, mind and soul,
to disentangle peace from pain
and make your broken people whole.**

John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (1958-2019)

Please sit after the opening prayer.

Sermon Revd Andrew Woodward

Anthem Give us the wings of faith *Whitbourn*

Give us the wings of faith to rise within the veil, and see the saints above, how great their joys, how bright their glories be. We ask them whence their vict'ry came: they, with united breath, ascribe the conquest to the Lamb, their triumph to his death. They marked the footsteps that he trod, his zeal inspired their breast, and, foll'wing their incarnate God, they reached the promised rest.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Please stand.

An Act of Commitment

As the people of God, we are called to follow in the way of Christ, to walk humbly and love mercy, and to speak up about injustice so that the church may be a place of safety and refuge for all. In acknowledging the role we all have in making our churches safer places, let us join together and pledge our commitment before almighty God:

Will you treat everyone with respect and dignity and seek to never knowingly hurt or harm others by what you do, or say?

All With the help of God, I will.

Will you actively support the work of safeguarding in this church?

All With the help of God, I will.

Will you support the Safeguarding Lead and all those who have safeguarding responsibilities?

All With the help of God, I will.

Will you use your voice to speak up about the injustice of abuse?

All With the help of God, I will.

Will you make space to listen to those who have been hurt and harmed in our community?

All With the help of God, I will.

Will you commit to never knowingly hide or keep quiet about abuse that you know of or suspect?

All With the help of God, I will.

Will you call on the wider church to take steps towards change in this area?

All With the help of God, I will.

May the God in whom we trust, strengthen this commitment within us that we may truly be a place of safety and refuge for all.

All Amen.

Please sit or kneel.

Prayers of Intercession *led by Neil MacGregor*

The response to the prayers is:

God of wonder and 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.

*During the following hymn a collection will be taken for the ministry and work of St Martin-in-the-Fields. You are welcome to donate by **scanning the QR code, cash in the collection bags** (filling in a Gift Aid envelope if applicable), or **card machine** (please see Jeff Claxton to register your payment card for Gift Aid).*



Offertory Hymn

- 1 Inspired by love and anger, disturbed by need and pain,
informed of God's own bias, we ask him once again:
'How long must some folk suffer? How long can few folk mind?
How long dare vain self-interest turn prayer and pity blind?'**
- 2 From those forever victims of heartless human greed,
their cruel plight composes a litany of need:
'Where are the fruits of justice? Where are the signs of peace?
When is the day when prisoners and dreams find their release?'**
- 3 From those forever shackled to what their wealth can buy,
the fear of lost advantage provokes the bitter cry,
'Don't query our position! Don't criticise our wealth!
Don't mention those exploited by politics and stealth!'**

continued...

- 4 To God, who through the prophets proclaimed a different age,
we offer earth's indifference, its agony and rage:
'When will the wrong be righted? When will the kingdom come?
When will the world be generous to all instead of some?'
- 5 God asks, 'Who will go for me? Who will extend my reach?
And who, when few will follow, will prophesy and preach?
And who, when few bid welcome, will offer all they know?
And who, when few dare follow, will walk the road I show?'

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

- 6 Amused in someone's kitchen, asleep in someone's boat,
attuned to what the ancients exposed, proclaimed and wrote,
a saviour without safety, a tradesman without tools
has come to tip the balance with fishermen and fools.

John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (1958-2019)

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:

You, Lord, have given us so much, and we return this little to you as a sign of our gratitude and hope. Take what little we give and make it much in your kingdom.

All **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

All The Lord be with you
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 of safekeeping, you sent an angel to Ishmael in the wilderness of Beersheba when he was vulnerable and afraid. You heard his crying and promised him a future bigger than the past. You upheld Tamar and held Amnon to account after his treatment of her. You delivered your infant Son Jesus from violent threats and shepherded his escape to Egypt. He gave dignity to all your children when he said, 'Whoever receives a child in my name, receives me.' In his crucifixion he shares the agony of those persecuted and abandoned, and in his resurrection you show your promise to vindicate the oppressed. And so we praise the glory of your name, with angels and archangels, singing

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in 4/4 time, using a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The tempo and dynamics are indicated by 'Org.' (Organ), 'f' (forte), 'ff' (fortissimo), 'p' (piano), and 'pp' (pianissimo). The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of po-wer and might. Heav'n and Earth are full of your glo-ry, Ho - san - na in the high-est. Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.'

God of belonging, in your Son you pledge that your eternal realm belongs to children, and that to enter that realm we must receive it like a child. In your Son Jesus you came to be with us, and show us how to be with one another. Bless these gifts of bread and wine, that all who feel broken and poured out may find their stories transformed by your Son's story, and these gifts may become for us his body and blood. 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.**

God of truth, you delivered your children from slavery under Pharaoh, and your will is to deliver your children from slavery today. You call your people to speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all who are desolate. In your Son you decry those who cause little ones to stumble, and promise fulfilment to all who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Make your church safe; change the hearts of those bent on causing harm; and foster a culture of trust, dignity, kindness, thoroughness and hope. Turn remorse for past wrongs into determination and action for a better future. By your Spirit transform your world so no one need live in fear, shame or hurt. Until all sorrow is turned into dancing and all failure becomes wisdom, and you are all in all, 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

In the broken body of Christ we find our peace with God.

All **Lord, unite us in this sign.**

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

Come, enter the broken heart of God.

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 O Jesu Christ, meins Lebens Licht J.S. Bach

O Jesu Christ, meins Lebens Licht, mein Hort, mein Trost, mein Zuversicht, auf Erden bin ich nur ein Gast und drückt mich sehr der Sünden Last. O Jesus Christ, light of my life, my treasure, my comfort, my security; I am only a guest on the earth and the burden of sin oppresses me greatly.

Martin Behm (1557–1622)

Silence is kept.

Prayer after Communion

Lord, make us people who demonstrate our faith through the way we love and care for one another. Give us grace as we work to make our church a safe place for all. Give us the courage to follow Christ's example and to love as he first loved us.

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 Dear Lord and Father of us all,
forgive our foolish ways;
from wayward paths our minds recall,
let purer thoughts our souls enthrall,
more rev'rent lips sing praise.**
- 2 In simple trust like theirs who heard
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word,
rise up and follow thee.**
- 3 Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.**
- 4 Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,
O still small voice of calm.**

John Greenleaf Whittier (1807–1892)

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

Organ Voluntary Fantasia super 'Komm, Heiliger Geist' BWV 651

J.S. Bach

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

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