



Sunday 11 January 2026, 10.00am

The Baptism of Christ

The Eucharist

Presider
Revd Catherine Duce

Preacher
Revd Dr Sam Wells

The Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields

Directed by
Olivia Tait

Organist
Benjamin Frost

Mass Setting
Mass of St Thomas *Thorne*

⊕ 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@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 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 Think of how God loves you *James MacMillan*

Think of how God loves you! He calls you his own children, and that is what you are.
You have put on Christ; in him you have been baptised. Alleluia!

Baptismal song, 1 John 3: 1 and from the baptismal rite

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 Awake, awake: fling off the night!
For God has sent his glorious light;
and we who live in Christ's new day
must works of darkness put away.**
- 2 Awake and rise, with love renewed,
and with the Spirit's power endued.
The light of life in us must glow,
and fruits of truth and goodness show.**
- 3 Let in the light: all sin expose
to Christ, whose life no darkness knows.
Before his cross for guidance kneel;
his light will judge and, judging, heal.**
- 4 Awake, and rise up from the dead,
and Christ his light on you will shed.
Its power will wrong desires destroy,
and your whole nature fill with joy.**

continued...

- 5 Then sing for joy, and use each day;
give thanks for everything alway.
Lift up your hearts; with one accord
praise God through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

John Raphael Peacey (1896-1971)

Please sit or kneel.

Confession

God longs to be with us, and Jesus Christ embodies the companionship God seeks with us. But we find ways to live in alienation from God, ourselves, one another and God's creation. Let us confess those ways in penitence and faith, confident in God's forgiveness, and resolved to live truthful and reconciled lives.

- All Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. 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 *opposite*

Collect

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; 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 forever.

- All Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God in the High - est. Glo-ry to God in the

High - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. Lord God, Heav'n - ly King, Al-

migh - ty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we_ praise you for your

glo - ry. Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God in the High - est.

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

sea - ted at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. Glo-ry to God,

Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God in the High - est. 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 Glo - ry of God the Fa - ther,

Glo - ry to God, Glo - ry to God, Glo - ry to God in the High - est.

Please sit.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Isaiah 49: 1-7 *read by Lawrence Warner*

Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away. The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.' But I said, 'I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord, and my reward with my God.'

And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honoured in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength - he says, 'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'

Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, 'Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.'

Hear the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading Acts 10: 34-43 *read by Valentina Chan*

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear,

not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

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 **When Jesus comes to be baptised,
he leaves the hidden years behind,
the years of safety and of peace,
to bear the sins of humankind.**
- 2 **The Spirit of the Lord comes down,
anoints the Christ to suffering,
to preach the word, to free the bound,
and to the mourner comfort bring.**
- 3 **He will not quench the dying flame,
and what is bruised he will not break,
but heal the wound injustice dealt,
and out of death his triumph make.**

continued after Gospel reading

Gospel Reading Matthew 3: 13-end

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptised by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptised by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptised, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn *continued*

- 4 Our everlasting Father praise
with Christ, his well-beloved Son,
who with the Spirit reigns serene,
eternal Trinity in One.**

Community of Stanbrook Abbey

Please sit after the opening prayer.

Sermon Revd Dr Sam Wells

Anthem The Spirit of the Lord *Elgar*

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor: he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord; to give unto them that mourn a garland for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified. For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

Isaiah 61. From 'The Apostles'

Please stand.

Apostles' Creed

- All I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,**

the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Please sit or kneel.

Prayers of Intercession *led by Jim Sikorski*

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

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.

*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 Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.**
- 2 Crown him the Virgin's Son,
the God incarnate born,
whose arm those crimson trophies won
which now his brow adorn:
Fruit of that mystic Rose,
as of that Rose the Stem;
the Root whence mercy ever flows,
the Babe of Bethlehem.**
- 3 Crown him the Lord of Love;
behold his hands and side,
those wounds yet visible above
in beauty glorified:
no angel in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends their burning eye
at mysteries so bright.**
- 4 Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose power a sceptre sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
absorbed in prayer and praise:
his reign shall know no end,
and round his pierced feet
fair flowers of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.**

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

continued...

**5 Crown him the Lord of years,
the Potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime:
all hail, Redeemer, hail,
for thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.**

Matthew Bridges (1800-1894)

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:

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new. By these gifts of water, bread and wine, transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

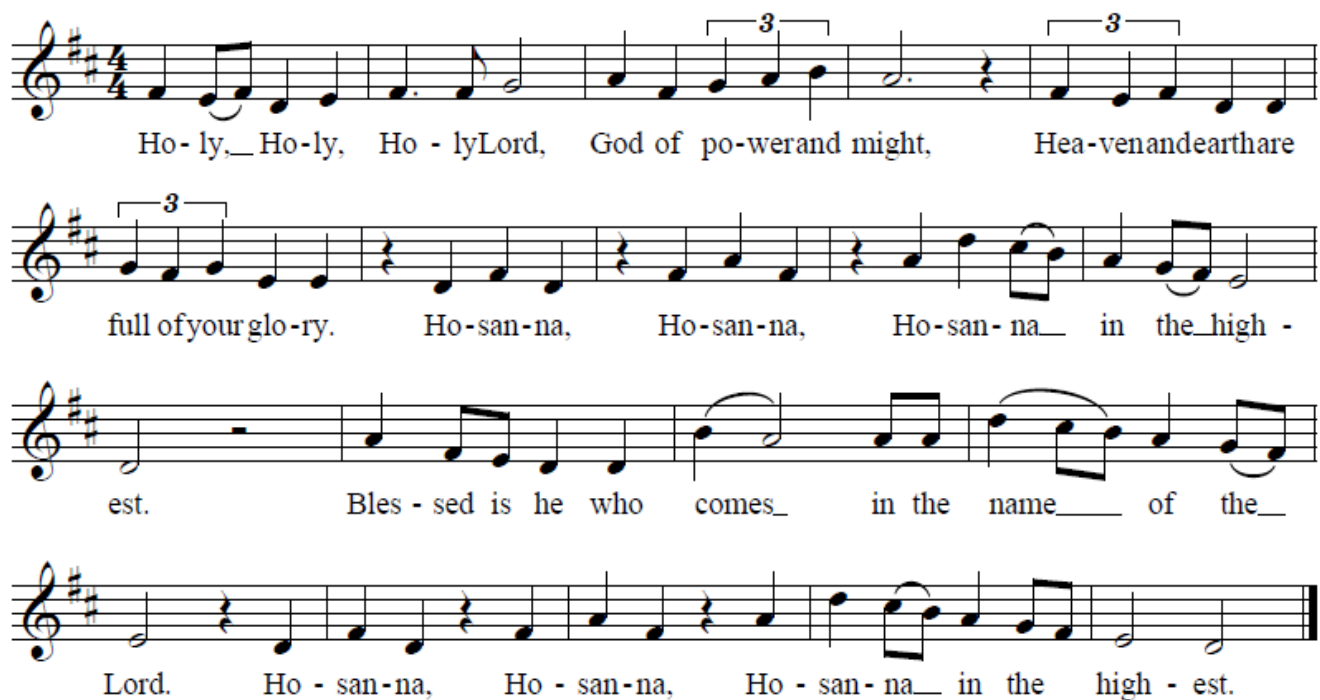
Eucharistic Prayer

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.

God of hope, in your Holy Spirit you hovered over the face of the waters in creation, and in your pillar of fire you led your people to liberation across the Red Sea. Through the waters you brought your people into the life and land of promise. In your Son's baptism at the Jordan we see your creative and liberating purpose at work amid our human flaws and failures, and we hear anew with hope the promise of your voice. In our own baptism you number us among your saints, created and redeemed for your glory. Through baptism you bury us in death with Christ yet raise us to new life with him forever. And so we gladly thank you, with saints and angels and archangels, and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending praise.



Blessing God, who sent down your Holy Spirit like a dove upon your Beloved, send your Spirit among us now to sanctify us by your grace. By the power of that same Spirit, make these gifts of bread and wine be 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.

Father of glory, you have opened your heaven and come among us. Be close to those who ache for your liberating power in the midst of travails and seek your open heaven. Visit all who need the healing, forgiving, peacemaking and restoring touch of your Spirit and look for your kingdom to come. Bless all who long to be called beloved, by sibling or parent or spouse or friend or child, and any who are searching for the love that only you can bring, until all stand in your presence, and sing your name, and are enfolded in your embrace, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, ever one God,

All **Amen.**

Please sit or kneel.

Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray, each in our own preferred language.

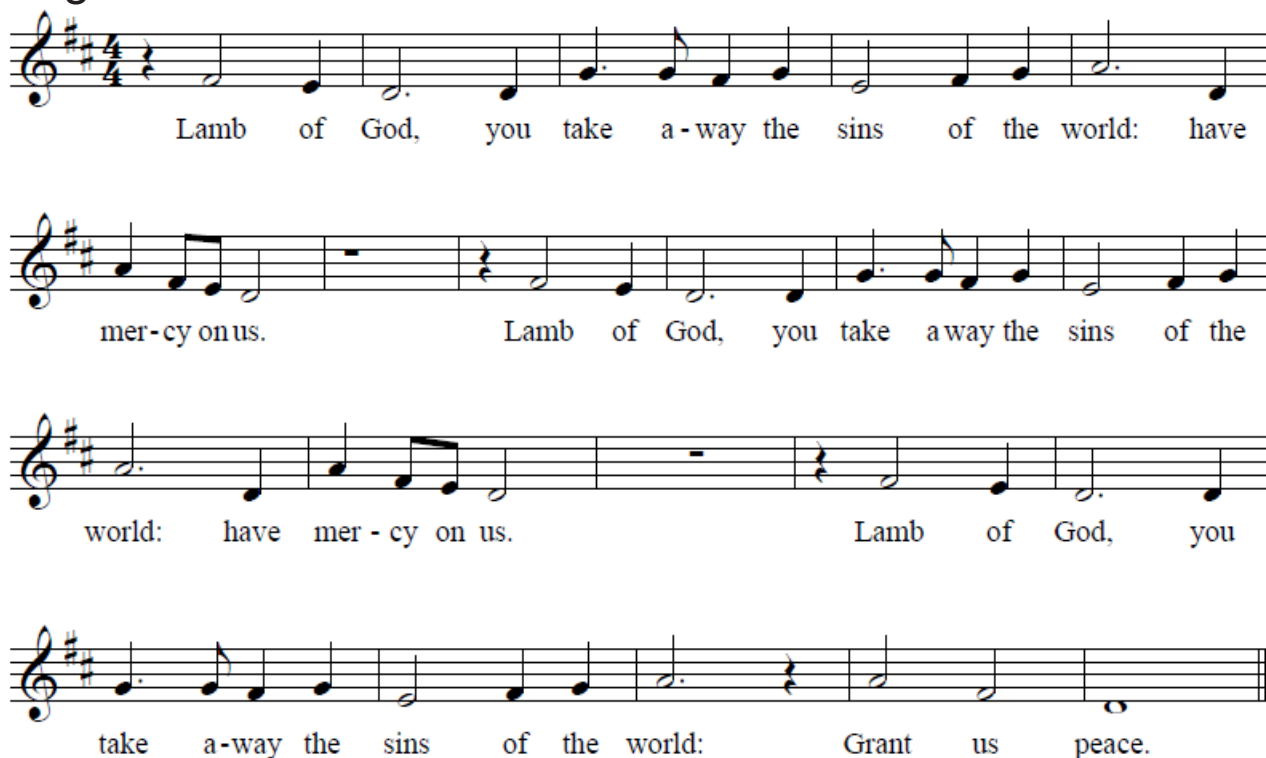
All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

Agnus Dei



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the
world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a-way the sins of the world: Grant us peace.

Giving of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All **Lord I am not worthy to receive you but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

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 Tomorrow shall be my dancing day Gardner

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day; I would my true love did so chance to see the legend of my play, to call my true love to my dance; *Sing, oh! my love, oh! my love, my love, my love, this have I done for my true love.* Then was I born of a virgin pure, of her I took fleshly substance thus was I knit to man's nature to call my true love to my dance. *Sing, oh!...* In a manger laid, and wrapped I was so very poor, this was my chance betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass to call my true love to my dance. *Sing, oh!...* Then afterwards baptised I was; the Holy Ghost on me did glance, my Father's voice heard from above, to call my true love to my dance. *Sing, oh!...*

Trad.

Silence is kept.

Prayer after Communion

Lord of all time and eternity, you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son: by the power of your Spirit complete the heavenly work of our rebirth through the waters of the new creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Dismissal

Notices

Please stand.

Blessing

Christ the Son of God perfect in you the image of his glory and gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Hymn

- 1 Deep in the human heart
the fires of justice burn;
with visions of a world renewed
through radical concern.
As Christians we are called
to set the captives free,
to overthrow the evil powers
and end hypocrisy.**
- 2 This is our task today,
to build a world of peace;
a world of justice, freedom, truth,
where kindness will increase;
a world from hunger freed,
a world where people share,
where every person is of worth
and no-one lives in fear.**
- 3 Taking the step of faith,
we leave the past behind
and move into the future's world
with open heart and mind.
By grace we work with Christ,
as one community,
to bring new hope and fuller life
to all humanity.**

William Livingstone Wallace (b. 1933) from Luke 4: 18-19

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

Organ Voluntary

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

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