



Sunday 8 March 2026, 10am
The Third Sunday of Lent

The Eucharist

Presider
Revd Catherine Duce

Preacher
Revd Martine Osborne

The Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields

Directed by
Jennifer Sterling

Organist
Benjamin Frost

Setting
Mass in A minor *Imogen Holst*

Written in 1927, when Holst was still a student at the Royal College of Music. The modal melodies tumble over one another in a style reminiscent of her teacher, Vaughan Williams.

⊕ Common Worship

Welcome

Our worship draws us together as one community face to face with God. Being with God and one another is what we call communion. We are glad you have chosen to join this precious moment.

Welcome whether you are joining us onsite or online. If you would like not to be on camera, please sit outside the pillars on the right as you enter.

Welcome to babies, children and young people. We support breastfeeding in services; we also have a room allocated if preferred. We understand that young children make noise. If you are under three and are looking for a quiet space, there's a room where your carer can watch the service. If you are aged 3-11, Children's Church gathers during the Gloria, not long after worship begins. A youth group for teenagers meets fortnightly on Sunday afternoons.

Welcome if you are disabled, unwell, have experiences of dementia, or physical, sensory or mental health issues, or are neurodivergent. The order of service is online. 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 the lifts near the portico.

Welcome to anyone concerned about 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 speak in their preferred language. 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. If you'd 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.

Welcome if you are looking for silent contemplation. We keep an intentional period of silence after the confession, the sermon, the anthem, and the intercessions. You are welcome to receive prayers for healing and wholeness at the altar rail at the end of the service.

During the service we receive bread in the form of a wafer, and wine from a common cup. Non-alcoholic wine and gluten-free wafers are available on request in the south aisle. If you need to receive in your seat, let a welcomer know; ministers will come to you. If you would rather not receive communion you may bow your head to indicate you would like to receive a simple prayer for blessing, or you are welcome to remain in your seat.

You are welcome to share in refreshments in St Martin's Hall after the service. Our welcomers can show you where to find toilets. We invite your ideas to help us to become a more welcoming community.

We are glad you are here.

The Gathering

Introit Miserere mei, Deus *Raphaella Aleotti*

Miserere mei, Deus, quoniam in te confidit anima mea: et in umbra alarum tuarum donec transeat iniquitas. Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me, for my soul trusteth in thee: and under the shadow of thy wings shall be my refuge, until this tyranny be over-past.

Psalm 57: 1

[This piece was among a set of sacred motets Aleotti published in Venice in 1593 – becoming the first woman ever to do so.]

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.**

Lament

God of glory, we lament before you the way your gospel has been used to demean women; the manner in which your church has contrived to exclude women; the frequency with which leaders of your church have harmed women; the pattern by which your followers have neglected, suppressed, damaged and discredited women. We grieve that these attitudes and actions are not all in the past but are experienced every day in your church worldwide. And we seek the power of your renewing grace to transform your church in body, mind and spirit that it may more fully be an agent of your healing, empowering and transforming love.

Opening Hymn

- 1 Be in our midst, and gather us together,
and let your loving-kindness be our guide;
help us discern your image in each other,
and walk with humble footsteps by your side.
Send us to work, O Lord, Almighty Giver,
till all who thirst and hunger now are filled;
let justice thunder like a mighty river,
that every storm of strife and conflict may be stilled.**

- 2 When all the world's great sorrows overtake us,
and we are crushed by centuries of pain,
grant us your strength, and lovingly remake us
that by your grace we may be whole again.
And when the sins of passing generations
make all the wounds of history still feel raw,
send out your healing power among the nations,
and fill this broken earth with heaven's peace once more.**

- 3 Grant us that peace beyond the mind's discerning;
help us to live the truth that sets us free.
And may the Spirit's fire within us burning
help us become who we are called to be.
In eager longing for your new creation,
a world reshaped by love and hope and grace,
with Christ the Prince of Peace as our foundation,
we'll build your kingdom now, in this and every place.**

Ally Barrett

Please sit or kneel.

Confession

By the power of the Holy Spirit, God has given us gifts of grace. Let us confess how we have not used those gifts aright.

Silence.

We have neglected and suppressed the gifts you have given us.
Lord have mercy.

All Lord have mercy.

We have failed to encourage your gifts in others.
Christ have mercy.

All **Christ have mercy.**

We have used your gifts to do harm.
Lord have mercy.

All **Lord have mercy.**

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

The Choir sings Kyrie eleison.

Abundant God, who forgives and restores all who repent, have mercy upon you, and through the grace of the Holy Spirit, renew a right spirit within you and raise you to new life in Christ.

All **Amen.**

Collect

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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.**

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading 1 Samuel 16: 1-11 *read by Genevieve Marjoribanks*

The Lord said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And the Lord said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the Lord." Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.' Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you come peaceably?' He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his

sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord.' But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.' Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen any of these.' Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.'

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 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve:
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come.**

**2 Just as I am, thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down,
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come.**

continued after Gospel reading

Gospel Reading John 20: 11-18

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

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

Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they

have laid him.’ When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?’ Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, ‘Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, ‘Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.” ’ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn *continued*

**3 Just as I am, of that free love
the breadth, length, depth, and height to prove,
here for a season, then above,
O Lamb of God, I come.**

Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871)

Please sit after the opening prayer.

Sermon Revd Martine Osborne

Anthem Upon Your Heart *Eleanor Daley*

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it. If you keep my commandments, you shall abide in my love, love one another as I have loved you, then shall your joy be complete.

Song of Solomon 8: 6, 7; John 15: 9-12

[Commissioned by Dr Thomas Porter in 1999 and dedicated to his wife Doreen on their 45th wedding anniversary.]

Please remain seated or kneel.

Prayers of Intercession *led by Fiona MacMillan*

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 Christ's 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 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine:
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God;
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood:**

*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.*

**2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love:
*Chorus***

continued...

**3 Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blest—
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.
Chorus**

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

***This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Saviour all the day long.***

Fanny Crosby (Frances Jane van Alstyne) (1820-1915)

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:

As the grain once scattered in the fields and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside are now reunited on this table in bread and wine, so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together from the corners of the earth into your kingdom.

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 Sarah, Hagar and Deborah, at Christmas you gave us your presence, at Easter you dismantled sin and death, and at Pentecost you empowered us to bear your image and spread your grace. God of Chloe, Phoebe and Priscilla, in mission you equip us to go to the four corners of the earth and rediscover what your Spirit is doing and meet you in the face of the stranger. God of Euodia, Syntyche and Apphia, in ministry you share with us the abundance of your love in sacrament and story, in prayer and teaching, in reconciliation and in bringing your world home to you. 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:

The Choir sings the Sanctus.

God of Ruth, Naomi and Esther, in Jesus you show us the extent of mission and the cost of ministry. Send your Holy Spirit, that your people may be filled with love, joy, and peace, and that these gifts of bread and wine may 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.**

God of Junia, Tryphena and Tryphosa, as you take bread and wine and make them the bearers of your Son's risen life, take our flesh and blood and make them the channels of your peace. Bless the ministry of women throughout the Anglican Communion and beyond. Transform your church that it may resemble the generosity, joy, and abundance of your Trinity. God of Julia, Persis and Claudia, raise up those whose gifts have been suppressed, neglected, ignored or rejected. Renew your people through humble service and prophetic witness, that your name may be known in the face of injustice, poverty, and tyranny. God of Mary, Mary Magdalene and Elizabeth, show your glory through agents of healing and learning, and shower your people with your love, until the day comes when every eye beholds you, full of grace and truth, ever one God, world without end.

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.

The Choir sings the Agnus Dei.

Giving of Communion

Come and receive the food of eternal life, the drink that never runs out.

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 Love bade me welcome *Judith Weir*

Love bade me welcome. Yet my soul drew back guilty of dust and sin. But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack from my first entrance in, drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning if I lacked any thing. A guest, I answered, worthy to be here: Love said, You shall be he. I, the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear, I cannot look on thee. Love took my hand, and smiling did reply, Who made the eyes but I? Truth, Lord; but I have marred them; let my shame go where it doth deserve. And know you not, says Love, who bore the blame? My dear, then I will serve. You must sit down, says Love, and taste my meat: So I did sit and eat.

George Herbert (1593-1633)

[In 1994, for the 500th anniversary of the University of Aberdeen, Judith Weir wrote two settings of 17th-century English verse, entitled Two Human Hymns. In 1997, she arranged the first of these 'Hymns' into this mixed-voice anthem.]

Silence is kept.

Prayer after Communion

God only wise, you delight to make your people out of food; and the food out of which you make us is your body and blood. As we have become your body in the eating of food, bless those with whom we share food this week, and bless those with whom we share you and in whom we meet you; that in being made your body, we may become food for your world, and through the change they see in us, all may come to praise the glories of your name.

All **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Notices

Please stand.

Blessing

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; 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 **We sing a love that sets all people free,
that blows like wind, that burns like scorching flame,
enfolds the earth, springs up like water clear:
come, living love, live in our hearts today.**
- 2 **We sing a love that seeks another's good,
that longs to serve and not to count the cost,
a love that, yielding, finds itself made new:
come, caring love, live in our hearts today.**
- 3 **We sing a love, unflinching, unafraid
to be itself, despite another's wrath,
a love that stands alone and undismayed:
come, strengthening love, live in our hearts today.**
- 4 **We sing a love that, wandering, will not rest
until it finds its way, its home, its source,
through joy and sadness pressing on refreshed:
come, pilgrim love, live in our hearts today.**
- 5 **We sing the Holy Spirit, full of love,
who seeks out scars of ancient bitterness,
brings to our wounds the healing grace of Christ:
come, radiant love, live in our hearts today.**

June Barbara Boyce-Tillman (b. 1943)

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

Organ Voluntary Sonata II *Elisabetta de Gambarini*

[The first woman in England to have her keyboard works published.]

Prayers for healing are available in the Dick Sheppard Chapel after the service.

Notes on today's music

To mark International Women's Day, all the choral and organ music at Eucharist and Evensong today is the work of female composers. This should be unremarkable: composers are composers, irrespective of gender, but as in so many other walks of life, women composers have historically faced a chronic lack of recognition. There have been great strides this century, but there is still a long way to go: here in the UK we could start by addressing the anachronistic title Master of the King's Music. The current holder of the post is a woman, Errollyn Wallen; her predecessor was Dame Judith Weir, whose sinuous setting of words by George Herbert, *Love bade me welcome*, we hear today. We have a Poet Laureate. Why not a Composer Laureate?

The first woman to have her sacred motets published, in Venice in 1593, was the prioress Raphaella Aleotti (c. 1570-1646), director of music at the convent of San Vito in Ferrara. Her beautifully measured *Miserere mei*, sung this morning, was among those motets. Our mass is by Imogen Holst (1907-1984), written when she was a 20-year-old student at the Royal College of Music, studying with Ralph Vaughan Williams. While the piece bears the influence of her teacher, the free-flowing, attractively lyrical score is distinctly her own. She became a significant figure in English music, as a composer, tutor, and administrator, working closely for 20 years with Benjamin Britten as joint artistic director of the Aldeburgh Festival. Many musicians today have reason to be thankful for her landmark textbook for young people from 1963, *An ABC of Music* (OUP).

Eleanor Daley (b. 1955) is a widely published Canadian composer, based in Toronto. Her motet, *Upon Your Heart*, is a warm and affecting setting of familiar words of love from the Song of Solomon, and was commissioned to celebrate a 45th wedding anniversary in 1999.

All the hymn texts today are by women writers. *Be in our midst and gather us together*, by the prolific Revd Ally Barrett, associate vicar at Great St Mary's, Cambridge, was commissioned to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the consecration of Coventry Cathedral. *Just as I am*, from 1836, is by Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871), one of her 150 hymn texts. *Blessed assurance* was written in 1873 by Fanny Crosby (1820-1915), a blind American poet and English teacher, who published more than 60 hymns in her lifetime. *We sing a love that sets all people free* is the work of June Tillman (b. 1943), Professor of Applied Music at the University of Winchester.

The organ voluntary this morning is by Elisabetta de Gambarini (1731-1765), the first woman in England to have her keyboard works published. Championed by Handel, she was a singer, instrumentalist and pioneering impresaria. She married Etienne Chazel, Master of the Horse to the French Ambassador, in this church in 1764. Shortly after, he tried to murder her and her mother in their house in the Strand, before making his escape to France. A blundered attempt to arrest him led to a political scandal, in which his crimes were covered up. Elisabetta died a few months later, giving birth to his child.

Stephen Pritchard

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Jubilate

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