



Sunday 12 April 2026, 10am
The Second Sunday of Easter

The Eucharist

Presider
Revd Dr Sam Wells

Preacher
Revd Andrew Woodward

Community Choir

Directed by
Jennifer Sterling

Organist
Hugh Rowlands

Setting
Mass of St Thomas *Thorne*

 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 Litany to the Holy Spirit *Hurford*

In the hour of my distress when temptations me oppress, and when I my sins confess, sweet Spirit, comfort me! Comfort me! When I lie within my bed, sick in heart and in head, and with doubts discomfited, sweet Spirit, comfort me! Comfort me! When the house doth sigh and weep, and the world is drown'd with sleep, yet mine eyes the watch do keep, sweet Spirit, comfort me! Comfort me!

Robert Herrick (1591-1674)

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 Alleluia, Alleluia!
Hearts to heaven and voices raise;
sing to God a hymn of gladness,
sing to God a hymn of praise:
he who on the cross a victim
for the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of glory,
now is risen from the dead.**
- 2 Christ is risen, Christ the first-fruits
of the holy harvest field,
which will all its full abundance
at his second coming yield;
then the golden ears of harvest
will their heads before him wave,
ripened by his glorious sunshine,
from the furrows of the grave.**

continued...

**3 Christ is risen, we are risen;
shed upon us heavenly grace,
rain and dew, and gleams of glory
from the brightness of thy face;
that we, with our hearts in heaven,
here on earth may fruitful be,
and by angel-hands be gathered,
and be ever, Lord, with thee.**

**4 Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory be to God on high;
Alleluia to the Saviour,
who has gained the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit,
fount of love and sanctity;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
to the Triune Majesty.**

Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885)

Please sit or kneel.

Confession

Let us confess our sins to our merciful God, trusting in the power and love that alone can set us free.

Silence.

You break open the tomb, but we hide behind locked doors.
Lord have mercy.

All **Lord have mercy**

You invite us to touch your life, but we hold on to our scars.
Christ have mercy

All **Christ have mercy**

You believe in us, but we are reluctant to believe in you.
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.**

Please stand.

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

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.

Collect

Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of 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 Acts 2: 14a, 22-32 *read by Helen Riley*

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

'You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know - this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, "I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence."

'Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, "He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption." This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

Hear the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading 1 Peter 1: 3-9 *read by Bronwyn Sanders*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith - being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire - may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

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 Come now, O Prince of peace,
make us one body,
come, O Lord Jesus,
reconcile your people.**

**2 Come now, O God of love,
make us one body,
come, O Lord Jesus,
reconcile your people.**

**3 Come now and set us free,
O God, our Saviour,
come, O Lord Jesus,
reconcile all nations.**

continued after Gospel reading

Gospel Reading John 20: 19-end

I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one; I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

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

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

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn *continued*

4 **Come, Hope of unity,
make us one body,
come, O Lord Jesus,
reconcile all nations.**

Geon-Yong Lee (b. 1947)

Please sit after the opening prayer.

Sermon Revd Andrew Woodward

Anthem Forth in the peace of Christ we go *David Ogden*

Forth in the peace of Christ we go; Christ to the world with joy we bring; Christ in our minds, Christ on our lips, Christ in our hearts, the world's true king. King of our hearts, Christ reigns in us; kingship with him his servants gain; with Christ, the Servant-Lord of all, Christ's world we serve to share Christ's reign. Priests of the world, Christ sends us forth this world of time to consecrate, our world of sin by grace to heal, Christ's world in Christ to recreate. Prophets of Christ, we hear his word: he claims our minds to search his ways; he claims our lips, to speak his truth; he claims our hearts, to sing his praise. We are his church, he makes us one: here is one hearth for all to find; here is one flock, one Shepherd King; here is one faith, one heart, one mind.

James Quinn, SJ (1919-2010)

Please stand.

Affirmation of Faith

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.

Prayers of Intercession *led by Flora Saxby*

The response to the prayers is:

Risen Lord, in your mercy

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.

All The peace of the risen 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 Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,
first-begotten from the dead,
thou alone, our strong defender,
liftest up thy people's head.
Alleluia, alleluia,
Jesu, true and living bread.**
- 2 Here our humblest homage pay we,
here in loving reverence bow;
here for faith's discernment pray we,
lest we fail to know thee now.
Alleluia, alleluia,
thou art here, we ask not how.**
- 3 Though the lowliest form doth veil thee
as of old in Bethlehem,
here as there thine angels hail thee,
branch and flower of Jesse's stem.
Alleluia, alleluia,
we in worship join with them.**

continued...

**4 Paschal Lamb, thine offering, finished
once for all when thou wast slain,
in its fullness undiminished
shall for evermore remain,
Alleluia, alleluia,
cleansing souls from every stain.**

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

**5 Life-imparting heavenly manna,
stricken rock with streaming side,
heaven and earth with loud hosanna
worship thee, the Lamb who died,
Alleluia, alleluia,
risen, ascended, glorified.**

George Hugh Bourne (1840-1925)

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:

**All Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour,
and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.
All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.**

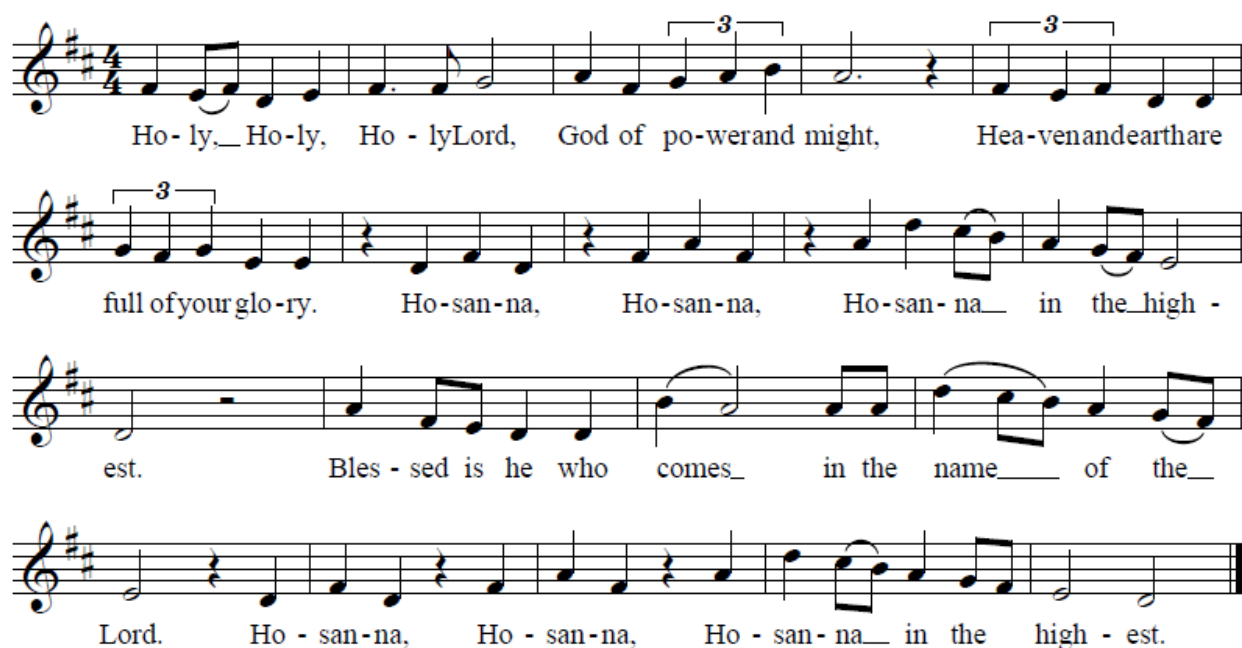
Eucharistic Prayer

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.

It is our duty and our joy to give you thanks and praise, Lord God of heaven and earth, because you are continually renewing your work of creation and transforming it to show your glory through resurrection. With your touch, you formed us from the dust of the earth. You raised your people from slavery in Egypt; you bound them to you through your covenant on Sinai; and you made yourself known to them in exile and the Promised Land. In Jesus you take into yourself the scars of our sin, and in his resurrected body you invite us to touch the wounds of your love. And so we gladly thank you, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending praise:



Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho-ly Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are
 full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na, Ho-san-na, Ho-san-na in the high -
 est. Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san-na, Ho - san-na, Ho - san-na in the high - est.

Forgiving Lord, your son's disciples covered behind locked doors; and yet in him you visited them on the evening of resurrection and breathed on them the Spirit of peace. Breathe that Holy Spirit upon us now, that your church may know the power of your forgiveness and these gifts of bread and wine may be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Who, on the night he was betrayed, 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.**

Lord and God, intimate saviour of our lives and cosmic ruler of the universe, in Jesus you are the substance of things hoped for and the knowledge of things unseen. Visit any who struggle under the shadow of doubt; minister among all who suffer under the claims of oppressive rule; resurrect your children, your church, and your earth. Bless those who have not seen and yet believe, and shape your wounded body the church to let the world see you through its scars. Lift every voice to sing your Easter glory, until the day when all stand before your throne, in one communion with one another and with you, ever 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.

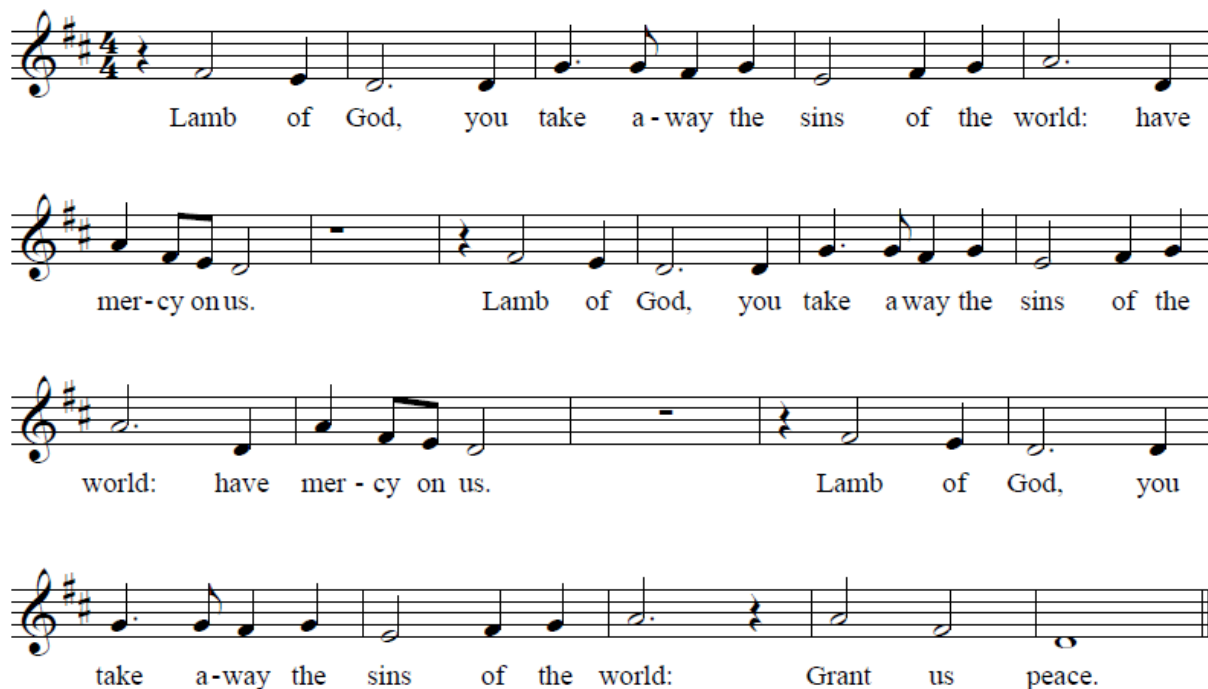
All **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are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



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

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 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 Gaelic Blessing John Rutter

Deep peace of the running wave to you, deep peace of the flowing air to you, deep peace of the quiet earth to you, deep peace of the shining stars to you, deep peace of the gentle night to you, moon and stars pour their healing light on you, deep peace of Christ the light of the world to you, deep peace of Christ to you.

Adapted from a Gaelic rune

Silence is kept.

Prayer after Communion

All Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. 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's redeeming work is done;
fought the fight, the battle won:
lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er,
lo, he sets in blood no more!**
- 2 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
Christ has burst the gates of hell;
death in vain forbids his rise;
Christ has opened paradise.**
- 3 Lives again our glorious King;
where, O death, is now thy sting?
Dying once, he all doth save;
where thy victory, O grave?**
- 4 Soar we now where Christ has led,
following our exalted Head;
made like him, like him we rise;
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.**
- 5 Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!
Praise to thee by both be given:
thee we greet triumphant now;
hail, the Resurrection Thou!**

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

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

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