



Sunday 26 April 2026, 10am
The Fourth Sunday of Easter

The Eucharist

Presider
Revd Richard Carter

Preacher
Revd Dr Sam Wells

The Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields

Directed by
Jennifer Sterling

Organist
Benjamin Frost

Setting
Mass of St Thomas *Thorne*
Kyrie from 'Mass for Four Voices' *Byrd*

⊕ 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

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 All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with fear, his praise forth tell,
come ye before him, and rejoice.**
- 2 The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make;
we are his folk, he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.**
- 3 O enter then his gates with praise,
approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.**
- 4 For why? the Lord our God is good;
his mercy is for ever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.**
- 5 To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
the God whom heaven and earth adore,
from earth and from the angel-host
be praise and glory evermore. Amen.**

William Kethe, (1559-1594)

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 are the gate to new life, but we hide behind locked doors.
Lord have mercy.

All **Lord have mercy.**

The Choir sings Kyrie eleison.

You call us by name, but we do not listen to your voice.
Christ have mercy.

All **Christ have mercy.**

The Choir sings Christe eleison.

You have come that we may have life in all its fullness, but we have chosen to live in fear and doubt.

Lord have mercy.

All **Lord have mercy.**

The Choir sings Kyrie eleison.

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 *see opposite*

Collect

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

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 Acts 2: 42-end *read by Eddie Grove*

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Hear the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading 1 Peter 2: 19-end *read by Wendy Quill*

For it is to your credit if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, where is the credit in that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.'

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian 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 The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
his goodness restores my soul.
*And I will trust in You alone.
And I will trust in You alone,
for your endless mercy follows me,
your goodness will lead me home.*

continued...

2 He guides my ways in righteousness,
and he anoints my head with oil,
and my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on his pure delights.

Refrain

continued after Gospel reading

Gospel Reading John 10: 1-10

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.**

'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn *continued*

- 3 And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
for you are with me, and your rod and staff
are the comfort I need to know.**

Refrain

Stuart Townend (b. 1963)

Please sit after the opening prayer.

Sermon Revd Dr Sam Wells

Anthem Come, my way *Sanders*

Come, my way, my truth, my life: such a way, as gives us breath: such a truth, as ends all strife: such a life, as killeth death. Come, my light, such a light, as shows a feast: such a feast, as mends in length: such a strength, as makes his guest. Come, my joy, my love, my heart: such a joy, as none can move: such a love, as none can part: such a heart, as joys in love.

George Herbert (1593-1633)

Please stand.

Apostles' Creed

- All We believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
We 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.
We 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 Jeff Claxton*

The response to the prayers is:

Risen Christ,

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.

The peace of the risen 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 The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine for ever.**

continued...

- 2** Where streams of living water flow
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow
with food celestial feedeth.
- 3** Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home rejoicing brought me.
- 4** In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.
- 5** Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and O what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

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

- 6** And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never:
good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house for ever.

Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877)

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.**

Shepherding God, we praise and thank you because you gathered your flock around Abraham, and through Moses and Joshua you brought your sheep to a place of safety. In Jesus you came to us as a Passover Lamb to take away the sins of the world. As our everlasting good shepherd you promise that those who hear your voice shall never be in want, for you know your sheep by name, and you call us your own and give to each of us a place in the sheepfold of your kingdom, where angels and archangels, and all the company of heaven, sing your unending praise.

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of po - wer and might, Hea - ven 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.

Sustaining God, as you lead your sheep to green pastures and guide them beside still waters, so you have led us to this table where in bread and wine you restore our soul. Send down your Holy Spirit and restore your church through the abundance of this sacred meal. As we remember the story of your Son's life laid down for us, sanctify this bread and cup and make them 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.**

Saving God, your rod and staff comfort all who look to you in faith. Search out your sheep that are lost and bring them home. When you find them in the valley of fear, gather them in your arms. When they face evil in the presence of enemies, follow them with your goodness and mercy all the days of their life. On that day when the shadow of death covers them, bring them to dwell in your house forever. Shepherd us with all your saints of every age into your glorious presence where we shall behold your Lamb in seated glory, most Holy Trinity, now and always.

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.**

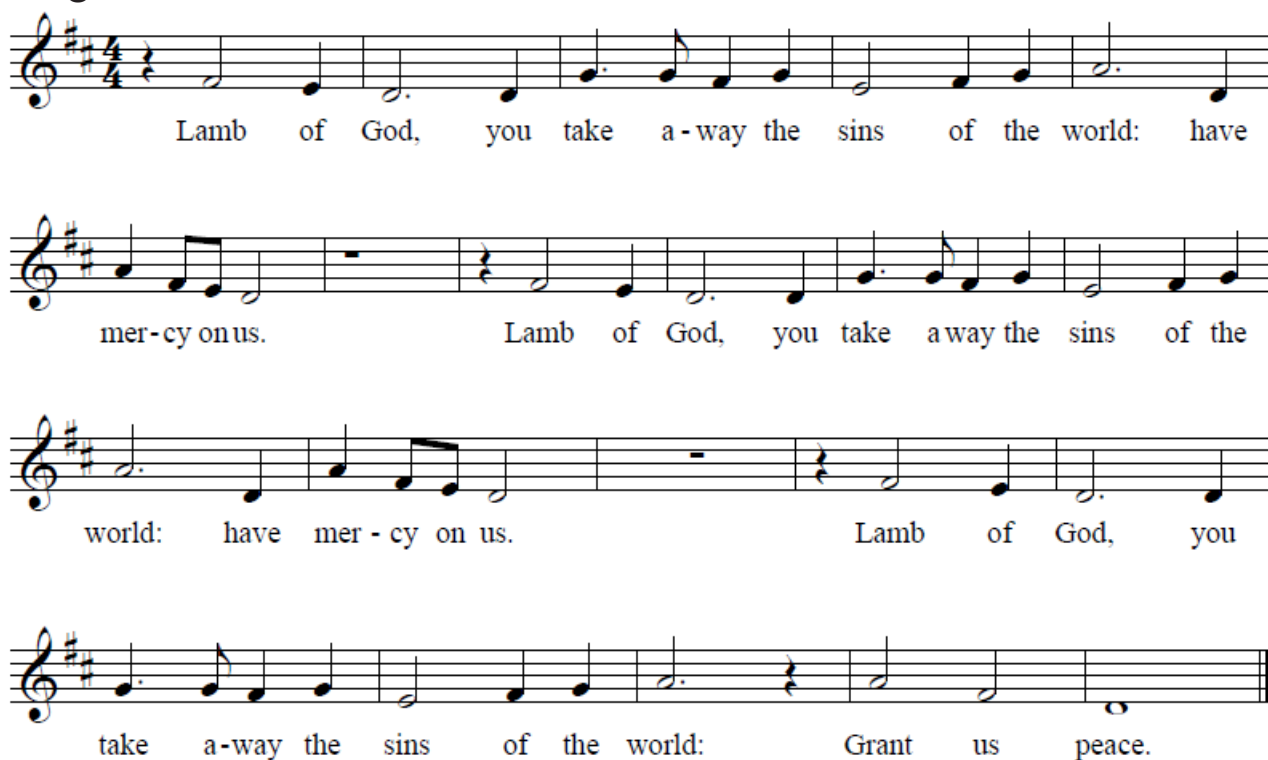
**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

As Christ breaks bread with us

All He enfolds our story in his story.

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 Worthy is the Lamb from 'Messiah' *Handel*

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and hath redeemed us to God by his blood to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. Blessing and honour, glory and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, for ever and ever. Amen.

Revelation 5: 12-13

Silence is kept.

Prayer after Communion

Christ has come to us so that we may have abundant life.

All **Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and 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 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not,
as thou hast been thou for ever wilt be.**

***Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided,
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.***

continued...

**2 Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest,
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.**

Chorus

**3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

Chorus

Thomas O. Chisholm (1866-1960)

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

All **In the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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.

John 14: 27

Organ Voluntary Fugue in C BWV 545 *J.S. Bach*

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

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