



Sunday 10 May 2026, 10am  
The Sixth Sunday of Easter

# The Eucharist

Presider  
Revd Dr Sam Wells

Preacher  
Revd Richard Carter

The Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields

Directed by  
Jennifer Sterling

Organist  
Benjamin Frost

Settings  
St Martin's Mass *Bednall*

⊕ 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 If ye love me *Tallis*

If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Comforter, that he may bide with you for ever; e'en the Spirit of truth.

*John 14*

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 O Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end;  
be thou for ever near me,  
my Master and my Friend:  
I shall not fear the battle  
if thou art by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway  
if thou wilt be my guide.**
- 2 O let me hear thee speaking  
in accents clear and still,  
above the storms of passion,  
the murmurs of self-will;  
O speak to reassure me,  
to hasten or control;  
O speak, and make me listen,  
thou guardian of my soul.**

*continued...*

- 3 O Jesus, thou hast promised  
to all who follow thee,  
that where thou art in glory  
there shall thy servant be;  
and, Jesus, I have promised  
to serve thee to the end:  
O give me grace to follow,  
my Master and my Friend.
- 4 O let me see thy foot-marks,  
and in them plant mine own;  
my hope to follow duly  
is in thy strength alone:  
O guide me, call me, draw me,  
uphold me to the end;  
and then in heaven receive me,  
my Saviour and my Friend.

*John Ernest Bode (1816-1874)*

*Please sit or kneel.*

## Confession

Jesus said; 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments.' Let us confess the ways in which we have failed to keep those promises, and to live in love and faithfulness with God and our neighbour.

*Silence.*

You made the world and everything in it and give us life and breath;  
But we fail to live as part of your creation.

Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

You have planted the seed of love in our hearts;  
But we have been stony ground, unable to see beyond our selfish desires.  
Christ, have mercy.

*All* **Christ, have mercy.**

You grow us into community;  
But we tacitly accept a world that smothers the dreams of those with  
less power and wealth.

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.**

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

*Please stand.*

Gloria in Excelsis *overleaf*

Collect

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; 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.**

*Please sit.*

# Gloria in Excelsis

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  
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 -  
ceive our prayer.  
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. A - men, a - -  
-men, a - - - - men.

*f*  
*mp*  
*Org.*  
*ff*

# The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Acts 17: 22-31 *read by Mel Adams*

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, “To an unknown god.” What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him - though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we too are his offspring.” Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.’

Hear the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading 1 Peter 3: 13-end *read by Michael Okorokporo*

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a

proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

*Please stand and turn to face the Gospel in the centre aisle.*

### Gospel Hymn

**Abba Father, let me be  
yours and yours alone.  
May my will forever be  
ever more your own.  
Never let my heart grow cold,  
never let me go,  
Abba Father, let me be  
yours and yours alone.**

*continued after Gospel reading*

### Gospel Reading John 14: 15-21

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

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

If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn *continued*

**Abba Father, let me be  
yours and yours alone.  
May my will forever be  
ever more your own.  
Never let my heart grow cold,  
never let me go,  
Abba Father, let me be  
yours and yours alone.**

*Dave Bilbrough (b. 1955)*

*Please sit after the opening prayer.*

Sermon    Revd Richard Carter

Anthem    I give to you a new commandment    *Peter Nardone*

I give to you a new commandment, a new commandment I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you. Amen.

*John 13: 34-45 and Liber Usualis*

*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 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 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 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.**

*continued...*

- 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.
- 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-impacting 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.**

Unknown yet revealing God, it is our duty and joy to thank and praise you, because from one ancestor you made all nations to inhabit the earth, and you allotted their times and boundaries, so they would search for you, in whom they live and move and have their being. While our lives are circumscribed by the limitations of our minds and bodies, your life is beyond our reach and outside our imagining. Yet in your mercy you embodied all your promises to your people in the sending of your Son, and through his dying and rising you have brought us to your throne of grace. And so we gladly thank you, with angels and archangels, and all who with your ascended Son sit at your right hand on high, singing the hymn of your unending praise.

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in 4/4 time, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with an organ marking 'Org.' and a forte dynamic 'f'. The lyrics are 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of po - wer and'. The second staff continues with a fortissimo dynamic 'ff' and lyrics 'might. Heav'n and Earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the high - est.'. The third staff starts with an organ marking 'Org.' and a piano dynamic 'p', with lyrics 'Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the'. The fourth staff concludes with a pianissimo dynamic 'pp' and lyrics 'Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.'. The score uses various note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some notes beamed together. There are also rests and fermatas used for phrasing.

Sending and accompanying God, you do not leave us orphaned, but in Christ you make us your adopted children, and in your Spirit you send an Advocate to be with us forever. By the power of that same Spirit, take the fragile flesh of your people and transform it into the resurrected glory of your church; and come down upon these gifts of bread and wine 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.**

Sanctifying God, from the abundance of your limitless glory, bless your children who suffer for doing right. Give to those who stand trial the gentleness and reverence of your Son. As in Christ you proclaimed your word to the spirits in prison, make yourself known to all who find themselves incarcerated in body, mind, or spirit. Be close to any who live with public shame, and all who carry the humiliation of others in their hearts. Breathe your power upon your people where they face persecution, oppression, or false charge, that in truth you shall lead us to all truth, until that day when the whole earth is judged in righteousness by the one you have appointed and raised from the dead, and we stand before you, forgiven, loved, and free, 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

As Christ breaks bread with us

*All* **He enfolds our story in his story.**

### 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* *pp*  
 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 *Baba yetu Christopher Tin arr. Ben Jones*

Baba yetu, yetu uliye Mbinguni yetu, yetu, amina! Baba yetu, yetu, uliye Jina lako litukuzwe. Utupe leo chakula chetu Tunachohitaji utusamehe Makosa yetu, hey! Kama nasi tunavyowasamehe Waliotukosea usitutie Katika majaribu, lakini Utuokoe, na yule, milelea milele! Ufalme wako ufike utakalo Lifanyike duniani kama mbinguni. (Amina)

*Swahili setting of the Lord's Prayer*

*Silence is kept.*

## Prayer after Communion

*All* **God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns, now and forever. 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 divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesu, thou art all compassion  
pure unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.**

*continued...*

- 2** Come, almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy grace receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.
- 3** Finish then thy new creation,  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation,  
perfectly restored in thee:  
Changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

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

Organ Voluntary Fugue in C Major BWV 547 *J.S. Bach*

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

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