

St
Martin
in
the
Fields

Sunday 13 September 2026, 10am
The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

The Eucharist

Presider
Revd Dr Sam Wells

Preacher
Revd Andrew Woodward

Deacon
Maddie Naisbitt

The Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields

Directed by
Jennifer Sterling

Organist
Benjamin Frost

Setting
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.

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 Ubi Caritas *Duruflé*

Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est. Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor. Exsulemus et in ipso jucundemur. Timeamus et amemus Deum vivum. Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero. Amen. *Where charity and love are, God is there. The love of Christ has gathered us into one. Let us rejoice and delight in him. Let us fear and love the living God, and let us honour him with a sincere heart. Amen.*

Attr. Paulinus of Aquilea (d. 802)

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 Light's abode, celestial Salem,
vision whence true peace doth spring,
brighter than the heart can fancy,
mansion of the highest King;
O how glorious are the praises
which of thee the prophets sing.**

**2 There for ever and for ever
alleluia is outpoured;
for unending, for unbroken
is the feast-day of the Lord;
all is pure and all is holy
that within thy walls is stored.**

continued...

3 There no cloud nor passing vapour
dims the brightness of the air;
endless noon-day, glorious noon-day
from the Sun of suns is there;
there no night brings rest from labour
for unknown are toil and care.

4 Laud and honour to the Father,
laud and honour to the Son,
laud and honour to the Spirit,
ever Three and ever One,
consubstantial, co-eternal,
while unending ages run.

Jerusalem luminosa, Thomas à Kempis (1379–1471) tr. John M. Neale (1818–1866)

Please sit or kneel.

Confession

God, you have called us into freedom, but we confess we have not always used that freedom well.

We have used it to look after our own comfort at the expense of others.
We have used it to abuse or exploit the earth which is our home.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

We have used it to silence voices that are different from our own. We
have used it to prop up unjust systems that keep others bound.
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

We have used it to restrict and restrain others. We have used it to
keep those with whom we are at odds trapped in guilt.
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Holy Trinity, whose mercy is as expansive as the heavens above, fill
us with the knowledge of your forgiveness; and help us to live with the
full and flourishing freedom, which is your intention for all.

All Amen.

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

Please stand.

Gloria in Excelsis

f
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
mp
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 -
Org.
ceive our prayer.
f
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
ff
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men, a - -
-men, a - - - - men.

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in 4/4 time. It begins in C major and transitions to B-flat major at the start of the 'mp' section. The score includes various dynamics: *f* (forte) at the beginning and end, *mp* (mezzo-piano) in the middle, and *ff* (fortissimo) for the final phrase. There are also markings for 'Org.' (organ) and 'A - men' with long horizontal lines indicating sustained notes. The lyrics are written below the staff, with some words hyphenated across lines.

Collect

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; 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.**

Please sit.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Exodus 14: 19-end *read by Sean Curtin*

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.' So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Hear the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Second Reading Romans 14: 1-12 *read by Beverley Logan*

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.' So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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 **God of freedom, God of justice,
you whose love is strong as death,
you who saw the dark of prison,
you who knew the price of faith—
touch our world of sad oppression
with your Spirit's healing breath.**
- 2 **Rid the earth of torture's terror,
you whose hands were nailed to wood;
hear the cries of pain and protest,
you who shed the tears and blood—
move in us the power of pity
restless for the common good.**

continued after Gospel reading

Gospel Reading Matthew 18: 21-35

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Then Peter came and said to Jesus, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.'

'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until

he should pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn *continued*

**3 Make in us a captive conscience
quick to hear, to act, to plead;
make us truly sisters, brothers
of whatever race or creed—
teach us to be fully human,
open to each other's needs**

Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2020)

Please sit after the opening prayer.

Sermon Revd Andrew Woodward

Silence is kept.

Anthem View me, Lord *Lloyd*

View me, Lord, a work of thine; shall I then lie drown'd in night? Might thy grace in me but shine, I should seem made all of light. Cleanse me, Lord, that I may kneel at thine altar, pure and white; they that once thy mercies feel, gaze no more on earth's delight. Worldly joys, like shadows, fade when the heav'nly light appears; but the cov'nants thou hast made, endless, know nor days, nor years. In thy word, Lord, is my trust, to thy mercies fast I fly; though I am but clay and dust, yet thy grace can light me high.

Thomas Campion (1567-1620)

Silence is kept.

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 Flora Saxby*

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.**

Silence is kept.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

God is love, and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them.

Please stand.

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 **Light of the minds that know him,
may Christ be light to mine!
My sun in risen splendour,
my light of truth divine;
my guide in doubt and darkness,
my true and living way,
my clear light ever shining,
my dawn of heaven's day.**
- 2 **Life of the souls that love him,
may Christ be ours indeed!
the living bread from heaven
on whom our spirits feed;
who died for love of sinners
to bear our guilty load,
and make of life's brief journey
a new Emmaus road.**
- 3 **Strength of the wills that serve him,
may Christ be strength to me,
who stilled the storm and tempest,
who calmed the tossing sea;
his Spirit's power to move me,
his will to master mine,
his cross to carry daily
and conquer in his sign.**

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

continued...

- 4 **May it be ours to know him
that we may truly love,
and loving, fully serve him
as serve the saints above;
till in that home of glory
with fadeless splendour bright,
we serve in perfect freedom
our strength, our life, our light.**

Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-2024) from a prayer of Saint Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

The Preparation of the Table The 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:

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

- All* **All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.
Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

- All* The Lord be with you
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 good and joyful to sing your praise, God of Moses and Miriam, for you are majestic in holiness, awesome in splendour, and glorious in power. You rejoice in all you have made, and you have created all things to ring out your joy. When your children were shackled as Pharaoh's slaves, you heard their cries, divided the waters of the sea, and opened a path to lead them to freedom on dry ground. When your people were captive to the bondage of sin, you sent your Son, full of your forgiving mercies to release us and to send us to share with others the grace we have ourselves received. And so we give you thanks and extol your holy name, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, as we join the unending hymn.

Org. *f* Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of po- wer and

ff might. Heav'n and Earth are full of your glo- ry, Ho - san - na in the high- est.

Org. *p* Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the

pp Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Delivering God, through your Son's dying and rising, you have released us from the debt of sin into the company of the forgiven. Sanctify us, who share this meal, to be a sign of jubilee hope in your freeing, redeeming, lifegiving promise. Send your Spirit upon this bread and this cup of blessing to be for us the body and blood of our Lord 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 mercy, shape your church to embody the forgiveness you make possible in Christ. Have compassion upon your sons and daughters who suffer the isolation of shame or disgrace. Give courage and conviction to any who find it difficult to forgive a brother or sister from the heart, and console your children whose pleas for clemency are unheeded. Bring your kingdom near in every place where financial debt weighs down nation or household. Draw us into your eternal life, that heralding your emancipation and proclaiming your liberation together with your people of every age, we may be bound to you forever in one perfect freedom, everlasting God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

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 world: *pp* grant us peace.

Giving of Communion

This is Christ's body, broken for you. Enter into the joy of his risen life.

All Amen.

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 Unclouded Day Alwood

O they tell me of a home far beyond the skies, they tell me of a home far away, and they tell me of a home where no storm-clouds rise: O they tell me of an unclouded day. O the land of cloudless days, O the land of an unclouded sky. O they tell me of a home where my friends have gone, they tell me of a land far away, where the tree of life in eternal bloom sheds its fragrance through the unclouded day. O the land... O they tell me of a King in his beauty there, they tell me that mine eyes shall behold where he sits on a throne that is bright as the sun in the city that is made of gold. O the land...

Revd J.K. Alwood (1828-1909)

Silence is kept.

Prayer after Communion

Keep, O Lord, your church, with your perpetual mercy; and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Dismissal

Notices

Please stand.

Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; 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 **There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in his justice
which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgement given.**
- 2 **For the love of God is broader
than the measure of our mind,
and the heart of the eternal
is most wonderfully kind.
But we make his love too narrow
by false limits of our own;
and we magnify his strictness
with a zeal he would not own.**
- 3 **There is plentiful redemption
through the blood that has been shed;
there is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the Head.
There is grace enough for thousands
of new worlds as great as this;
there is room for fresh creations
in that upper home of bliss.**
Second half of tune
- 4 **If our love were but more simple
we should take him at his word;
and our lives would be all gladness
in the joy of Christ our Lord.**

Frederick William Faber (1814-1863)

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

Organ Voluntary Toccata in F BWV 540 J.S. Bach

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