St Martin in the Fields

Sunday 15 November 2026, 10am

The Second Sunday Before Advent

The Eucharist

Safeguarding Sunday

Presider
Revd Andrew Woodward

Preacher
Revd Dr Sam Wells

Deacon
Revd Sarah Archer

The Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields

Directed by
Jennifer Sterling

Organist
Benjamin Frost

Mass Setting
Missa Brevis *Kodály*

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 Greeting

Introit Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling *Will L. Thompson arr. Scott Martin*

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me; see, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me. Come home, ye who are weary, come home; earnestly, tenderly Jesus is calling, calling O sinner, come home! Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me? Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me? Come home… Oh! For the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me; tho' we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. Come home… Calling his children home!

Will L. Thompson (1847-1909)

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.

Please stand.

Opening Hymn

1 **Extol the God of justice**
with heart and soul and voice;
remember all his wonders,
recount them and rejoice.
He stands with all who labour
for what is true and right,
till wickedness and falsehood
are banished from his sight.

continued...

2 **Extol the God of justice**
enthroned for evermore,
a stronghold in affliction,
a refuge to the poor:
he hears the cry of victims
and senses their despair;
in faithfulness he honours
the faith that sparks our prayer.

3 **Extol the God of justice,**
however dark the day:
the hope that calls for mercy
will not be turned away;
for evil shall not triumph,
nor human sin prevail:
the Lord is God eternal,
whose judgements cannot fail.

Martin Leckebusch (b. 1962) based on Psalm 9

Please sit or kneel.

Confession

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

You made your church to be place of safety and refuge, yet people have been hurt and harmed.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

You call your church be a voice for the voiceless and the oppressed, yet we have remained silent and not spoken out about injustice.
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

You send your church to be an example of love to the world, yet we have been selfish and not shown love to those who are hurting.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ gave us the perfect example of love and compassion; forgive us our sins, open our eyes to your truth, open our hearts to your justice strengthen us to do your will, and make us, your church, a place of safety and refuge for all, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

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

Please remain seated.

Gloria in Excelsis *sung by the choir*

Collect

God of compassion, our refuge and strength, defender of the weak, the weary, and the oppressed, open your arms to your children who come to you with humble and thankful hearts. You call us to be like you, to speak up for all who are vulnerable. Make this community a place of safety for all. Open our ears to listen to those who are hurting, to learn from Jesus' example, and to love one another as you first loved us. In Christ your beloved Son our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Psalm 91: 1-4 *read by Helen Riley*

You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.' For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence; he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

Hear the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 13 *read by Michael Okorokporo*

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic

powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.
Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

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 We cannot measure how you heal
or answer every sufferer's prayer,
yet we believe your grace responds
where faith and doubt unite to care.
Your hands, though bloodied on the cross,
survive to hold and heal and warn,
to carry all through death to life
and cradle children yet unborn.

2 The pain that will not go away,
the guilt that clings from things long past,
the fear of what the future holds,
are present as if meant to last.
But present too is love which tends
the hurt we never hoped to find,
the private agonies inside,
the memories that haunt the mind.

continued after Gospel reading

Gospel Reading Matthew 25: 14-30

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

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

‘For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, “Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, “Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.” His master said to him, “Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.” Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, “Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” But his master replied, “You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn *continued*

**3 So some have come who need your help,
and some have come to make amends,
as hands which shaped and saved the world
are present in the touch of friends.
Lord, let your Spirit meet us here
to mend the body, mind and soul,
to disentangle peace from pain
and make your broken people whole.**

John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (1958-2019)

Please sit after the opening prayer.

Sermon Revd Dr Sam Wells

Silence is kept.

Anthem The Beatitudes *Philip W. J. Stopford*

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heav'n. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5: 3-12

Silence is kept.

Please stand.

Nicene Creed

All **We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

Please sit or kneel.

Prayers of Intercession *led by Jane Templeman*

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.

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 Inspired by love and anger, disturbed by need and pain,
informed of God's own bias, we ask him once again:
'How long must some folk suffer? How long can few folk mind?
How long dare vain self-interest turn prayer and pity blind?'

2 From those forever victims of heartless human greed,
their cruel plight composes a litany of need:
'Where are the fruits of justice? Where are the signs of peace?
When is the day when prisoners and dreams find their release?'

3 From those forever shackled to what their wealth can buy,
the fear of lost advantage provokes the bitter cry,
'Don't query our position! Don't criticise our wealth!
Don't mention those exploited by politics and stealth!'

4 To God, who through the prophets proclaimed a different age,
we offer earth's indifference, its agony and rage:
'When will the wrong be righted? When will the kingdom come?
When will the world be generous to all instead of some?'

continued...

5 God asks, 'Who will go for me? Who will extend my reach?
And who, when few will follow, will prophesy and preach?
And who, when few bid welcome, will offer all they know?
And who, when few dare follow, will walk the road I show?'

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

6 Amused in someone's kitchen, asleep in someone's boat,
attuned to what the ancients exposed, proclaimed and wrote,
a saviour without safety, a tradesman without tools
has come to tip the balance with fishermen and fools.

John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (1958-2019)

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:

You, Lord, have given us so much, and we return this little to you as a sign of our gratitude and hope. Take what little we give and make it much in 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 safekeeping, you sent an angel to Ishmael in the wilderness of Beersheba when he was vulnerable and afraid. You heard his crying and promised him a future bigger than the past. You upheld Tamar and held Amnon to account after his treatment of her. You delivered your infant Son Jesus from violent threats and shepherded his escape to Egypt. He gave dignity to all your children when he said, 'Whoever receives a child in my name, receives me.' In his crucifixion he shares the agony of those persecuted and abandoned, and in his resurrection you show your promise to vindicate the oppressed. And so we praise the glory of your name, with angels and archangels, singing:

Please sit.

Sanctus *sung by the choir*

Please stand.

God of belonging, in your Son you pledge that your eternal realm belongs to children, and that to enter that realm we must receive it like a child. In your Son Jesus you came to be with us, and show us how to be with one another. Bless these gifts of bread and wine, that all who feel broken and poured out may find their stories transformed by your Son's story, and these gifts may become for us his body and blood. 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 truth, you delivered your children from slavery under Pharaoh, and your will is to deliver your children from slavery today. You call your people to speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all who are desolate. In your Son you decry those who cause little ones to stumble, and promise fulfilment to all who hunger and thirst for righteousness. Make your church safe; change the hearts of those bent on causing harm; and foster a culture of trust, dignity, kindness, thoroughness and hope. Turn remorse for past wrongs into determination and action for a better future. By your Spirit transform your world so no one need live in fear, shame or hurt. Until all sorrow is turned into dancing and all failure becomes wisdom, and you are all in all, 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

In the broken body of Christ we find our peace with God.

All **Lord, unite us in this sign.**

Anthem Lord's Prayer *Joanna Forbes L'Estrange*

Giving of Communion

Come, enter the broken heart of God.

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.

Agnus Dei

Silence is kept.

Prayer after Communion

Lord, make us people who demonstrate our faith through the way we love and care for one another. Give us grace as we work to make our church a safe place for all. Give us the courage to follow Christ's example and to love as he first loved us.

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 Dear Lord and Father of us all,
forgive our foolish ways;
from wayward paths our minds recall,
let purer thoughts our souls enthral,
more rev'rent lips sing praise.

2 In simple trust like theirs who heard
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word,
rise up and follow thee.

3 O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love!

3 Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.

4 Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,
O still small voice of calm.

John Greenleaf Whittier (1807–1892)

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

Organ Voluntary Toccata and Fugue in D minor BWV 565 *J.S. Bach*

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

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