

St
Martin
in
the
Fields

Sunday 14 May 2023, 10am
The Sixth Sunday of Easter

The Eucharist

Presider
Revd Sally Hitchiner

Preacher
Mervyn McCullagh
Director of Strategy and Global
Change, Christian Aid

The Choir of St Martin-in-the-Fields

Directed by
Jennifer Sterling

Organist
Ben Frost

Settings
St Martin's Mass *Bednall*

⊕ Common Worship

Welcome

Our Welcomers are available to assist with any of the following access information.

Welcome whether you are joining us today in our building or online. Our cameras focus on those who are leading our service but if you are in the building and would like to ensure that you are not caught on camera, please sit beyond the pillars on the south of the church (to the right as you enter).

Welcome if you are disabled, unwell, have experiences of dementia, physical, sensory, cognitive or mental health issues, or are neurodivergent. The order of service is available online or large print copies. 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 lifts in the NW porch and Pavilion.

Welcome to babies, children and young people. We understand that young children make noise. If your baby becomes upset during the service you are welcome to take them to the back if they need that to settle or to our children's church room provided for them. We support breastfeeding in services or we also have a room allocated. We have children's church groups during the service (currently alternate weeks) and a monthly group for teenagers after our service.

Welcome to anyone with a need of safeguarding. If you would like to reach our safeguarding team, you can email safeguarding@smitf.org

Welcome to all experiences of race, culture and language. At the Lord's Prayer we are all invited to bring the gift of our first language to our worship. Because of historical links to Soho our 1.30pm is in Cantonese and our Welcomers are happy to help where they can if you are new to English. Of course, you are also very welcome if you are LGBTQIA+.

Welcome if you are agnostic or have different beliefs to Christianity. **Welcome** if you are wary of faith. **Welcome** if you're exploring. **Welcome** if you are here to support someone else. If you would 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 being-with@smitf.org for more details.

You are welcome to share our meal with God. When we come to Holy Communion, we receive a bread wafer then wine sharing a cup. You may receive just bread if you wish. Non-alcoholic wine and gluten-free wafers are available in the south aisle. If you need to receive in your seat please let a Welcomer know and the priest will bring it to you. If you do not want to or cannot receive bread and wine for whatever reason you are welcome to let the priest know you would like to receive a simple prayer for blessing or stay in your seat.

We welcome your ideas and help for us to become a more welcoming community.

We are glad you are here!

The Gathering

Introit Hamba Nathi *Trad. South African Song in Xhosa*

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 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.
- 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.

continued...

**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)

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.

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.

Collect

God, our gardener of Eden, who flung stars into space and nurtures the tiniest plant, lift our hopes and dreams above the loss and damage of our suffering planet, that we might share your long-dreamed vision which values the seed as much as the tree, fill us with your life-giving hope and inspire us with your creative Spirit now, and in the age to come.

All **Amen.**

Please sit.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Acts 17: 22-31 *read by Angela Dawson*

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 *read by Ramesh Puvaneswaran*

In one of our Sunday Eucharists 15 months ago we heard the story of Justin Chaponda, a 36 year old Malawian. He spoke about the challenge of growing enough food for his extended family as the one annual rainy season becomes increasingly shorter.

A couple of years ago Justin achieved his dream to establish a community-based organisation, promoting health and wellbeing in the rural area around his village. Over the past year they have built 3 fishponds, using the profits to pay secondary school fees for orphans. Their farm provides extra food for the families supporting orphans. Their volunteers care for those who are very sick and dying. And they regularly educate the community about issues such as HIV and gender-based violence.

Cyclone Freddy hit Malawi in early March. Although many miles from the centre, Justin's rural community has still been devastated. 70 houses were destroyed, 40 suffered significant damage, in particular the loss of roofs, and 50 latrines have collapsed. This is especially concerning in the context of the deadliest cholera outbreak in the country's history. 2 months on, families are still living in temporary shelters like schools. But more worryingly, their crops have been destroyed and people need food. They desperately need to do irrigation farming. They need a second harvest.

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 Mervyn McCullagh, Director of Strategy and Global
Change, Christian Aid

Anthem Indodana *Trad South African song in Xhosa arr.
Barrett and Schmitt*

Please stand.

The 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.

The Prayers of Intercession *led by Susannah Woodd*

The response to the prayers is:

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.

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.

A collection will be taken for the work of this church during the following hymn. You are welcome to donate using:

- cash in the collection bags filling in a Gift Aid envelope if applicable*
- select amount and tap the card machines brought by the stewards*
- by texting COLLECTION to 70450 to donate £10 (texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message).*
- by scanning the QR code to the right with your phone*



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

- 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.**

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.

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.

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 first 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

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 and side aisles. Gluten-free wafers and non-alcoholic wine are available in the south aisle. If you wish to receive Communion in your seat do let a steward know.

Communion motet Ukuthula *Trad. South African Song in Zulu*

Silence is kept.

Prayer after Communion

**All God of broken bread and wine shared.
May we learn and be inspired
to be part of your community that helps each other,
and to extend that community to the Earth
and to the ends of the Earth,
that all may live and live abundantly.
Amen.**

The Dismissal

Notices

Please stand.

Blessing

Go into the world
working together for change
so that everyone can thrive
and share life in its fullness.

And in all we do let us show the love of Jesus.

Let us treat everyone with dignity.

All **We will show the love of Jesus.**

Let us stand up for equality.

All **We will show the love of Jesus.**

Let us fight for justice.

All **We will show the love of Jesus.**

May the God of hope
fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may overflow with hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Thanksgiving 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.**

continued...

- 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.
- 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)

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

All In the name of Christ. Amen

Organ Voluntary

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