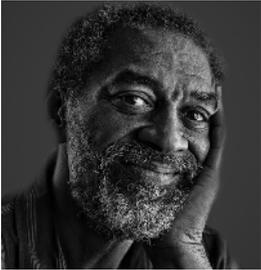


SOUTHWARK  
◆ CATHEDRAL ◆

# Black History Month



*"Who do you say that I am?"*

*Matthew 16:15*

**Diocesan Annual Service of Thanksgiving**  
**Saturday 4 October 2025, 10.30am**



SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Developing Church of England Education



The Diocese of  
**Southwark**

## WELCOME TO SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL

A MEMBER OF THE



### ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Please ensure that all electronic devices are switched to silent.

### PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography and video recording of the Choir is not permitted.

You are welcome to take photographs of the Cathedral but please do not take any photographs or videos during the service.

### HEARING LOOP

Please switch your device to 'T'.

### POSTURE

The instructions in this booklet are not prescriptive. Please sit if that is more appropriate for you.

### COLLECTIONS & DONATIONS



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**BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
DIOCESAN ANNUAL SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING**

**PRESIDENT**

The Bishop of Southwark, The Rt Rev'd Christopher Chessun



**DEACON**

The Rev'd Judy Douglas, Curate, St Mary & St John the Divine, Balham



**SUBDEACON**

Canon Roxanne Eversley, Librarian



**PREACHER**

The Ven Dr Chigor Chike, Archdeacon of Lewisham & Greenwich



*Please stand as the Procession enters.*

## THE ENTRANCE HYMN

---

Brother, sister, let me serve you;  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,  
and companions on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christlight for you  
in the nighttime of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow,  
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,  
we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together  
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you;  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

### **TUNE: SERVANT SONG**

Richard Gillard (b. 1953)  
arr. Betty Pulkingham (1928-2019)

### **TEXT:**

Richard Gillard (b. 1953)

## THE GATHERING

---

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

Peace be with you.

**All And also with you.**

We stand before the throne of God  
with countless crowds  
from every nation, tribe and language.

**All Blessing and glory and wisdom,  
thanksgiving and honour,  
power and might  
be to our God for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

*The Bishop welcomes the congregation and introduces the celebration.*

## THE PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

---

*The prayers are written by the Black History Month planning group, who were keen to express the resonance of this year's theme by incorporating it into existing liturgies.*

Human sin disfigures the whole creation, which groans with eager longing for God's redemption.

We confess our sin in penitence and faith.

*Silence is kept.*

Lord God, our maker and our redeemer,  
this is your world and we are your people:  
come among us and save us.

For our inability to see your glory in all people and in all creation.  
Lord, in your mercy,

**All Forgive us and transform us.**

For the times when we remain silent in the face of racial discrimination.

Lord, in your mercy,

**All Forgive us and transform us.**

For times when we have seen the ill-treatment of others  
and have not gone to their aid;  
when we have condoned evil and dishonesty  
and failed to strive for justice.

Lord, in your mercy,

**All Forgive us and transform us.**

## **THE ABSOLUTION**

---

May Almighty God,  
who is the source of all life and love,  
forgive you;  
open your eyes to the beauty of his people,  
empower you to resist inequality and injustice  
and affirm his image and calling in you,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

*Please remain standing to sing:*

## **GLORIA IN EXCELSIS**

---

Glory to God, glory to God,  
glory in the highest!

**All Glory to God, glory to God,  
glory in the highest!**

To God be glory for ever!

**All To God be glory for ever!**

Alleluia! Amen! *x 5 times*

**All Alleluia! Amen!**

*The following verses repeat in the same fashion.*

Glory to God, glory to God,  
glory to Christ Jesus...

Glory to God, glory to God,  
glory to the Spirit...

## THE COLLECT

---

Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

### A Collect for Black History Month

Compassionate God,  
who sent Jesus Christ  
to deliver us from all manner of injustices and inequalities,  
create in us new hearts and enlarged visions,  
to see the image of God in every person  
irrespective of background, race and ethnicity.  
May we be generous in our love of others  
as we work towards ending misunderstanding,  
racism and injustice;  
creating communities of human flourishing,  
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.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

---

*Please be seated.*

### THE FIRST READING

---

**Genesis 1.16-31**

*Read by* Pupils from Bishop John Robinson Primary School,  
Thamesmead

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, ‘Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.’ So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

So God created humankind in his image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## POEM

---

Excerpts from *Still I Rise* • Maya Angelou (1928-2014)

Read by            **The Rev'd Cordella Dawson**

You may write me down in history  
with your bitter, twisted lies,  
You may trod me in the very dirt  
but still, like dust, I'll rise.

Just like moons and like suns,  
with the certainty of tides,  
Just like hopes springing high,  
Still I'll rise.

Did you want to see me broken?  
Bowed head and lowered eyes?  
Shoulders falling down like teardrops,  
weakened by my soulful cries.

Does my haughtiness offend you?  
Don't you take it awful hard  
Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines  
diggin' in my own backyard.

You may shoot me with your words,  
You may cut me with your eyes,  
you may kill me with your hatefulness,  
But still, like air, I'll rise.

Out of the huts of history's shame I rise,  
Up from a past that's rooted in pain I rise,  
I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,  
welling and swelling I bear in the tide.

*Please stand.*

**All        Leaving behind nights of terror and fear we rise,  
              Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear we rise,  
              Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,  
              we are the dream and the hope of the slave.  
              we rise  
              we rise  
              we rise.**

## THE GRADUAL HYMN

---

### Steal Away

Traditional African-American spiritual  
arr. Michael Tippett (1905-1998)

*Led by* The Choir from Archbishop Tenison's School, Croydon

Steal away, steal away,  
Steal away to Jesus.  
Steal away, steal away home.  
I han't got long to stay here.

My Lord, he calls me,  
He calls me by the thunder;  
The trumpet sounds within my soul;  
I han't got long to stay here.

All Steal away, steal away,  
Steal away to Jesus.  
Steal away, steal away home.  
I han't got long to stay here.

Green trees are bending,  
Poor sinners stand a-trembling;  
The trumpet sounds within my soul;  
I ain't got long to stay here.

Steal away, steal away,  
Steal away to Jesus.  
Steal away, steal away home.  
I han't got long to stay here.

## THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

---

*Please stand and turn to face the Gospel as the Procession moves into the Nave.*

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

**All Alleluia!**

## THE GOSPEL

---

**Matthew 16.13-20**

*Read by*            **The Rev'd Judy Douglas**

**All**            The Lord be with you  
                 and also with you.

**All**            Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
                 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

**All**            This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
                 **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## THE SERMON

---

**The Ven Dr Chigor Chike, Archdeacon of Lewisham & Greenwich**

## THE CREED

---

*Please stand.*

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.

## THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

---

*The prayers are based on words from early theologians from many different places across the world whose thinking has made a unique contribution to our understanding of life and faith.*

In the power of the Spirit  
and in union with Christ  
let us pray to the Father.

*Please be seated or kneel.*

*The prayers are led by Pupils from Bishop John Robinson Primary School,  
Thamesmead*

*Gregory the Great*

Holy God, revealed in the wisdom of past ages and made known to all times through your Son, we come to you in prayer for this world you love so much. "All things were made out of nothing by you, and would sink into nothing again if you did not hold creation steady". Teach us to respect your gifts, and to live in your world with care and compassion for all you have created.

Lord, hear us.

**All Lord, graciously hear us.**

*Isaac of Nineveh*

God of hope, we walk in "the intelligible light by which grace dawns in the soul, supports the heart and grants the gift of hope". Give us the will to make that hope reality in a broken and hurting world.

Lord, hear us.

**All Lord, graciously hear us.**

*Rufus of Aquileia*

God of community "in coming to God, we profess what we believe, seeing that without this not even common life can be lived". We pray your blessing on the Church. Help us to live out what we believe, so that our common life may be a sign of your Kingdom for the world.

Lord, hear us.

**All Lord, graciously hear us.**

### *Basil of Caesarea*

God whose wisdom is beyond our understanding, “Let faith prevail; faith that leads the mind to trust, faith that does not come from human logic but is the fruit of the Holy Spirit”. Strengthen our faith, that we may encourage others to trust your wisdom and not human powers alone.

Lord, hear us.

**All Lord, graciously hear us.**

### *Irenaeus of Lyon*

God “whose light appeared in our darkness, and making the darkness of our prisons disappear, hallowing birth, destroying death and freeing us from slavery” we pray for those bound by poverty injustice or oppression, those suffering and those close to death, that your light will shine brightly to guide all home.

Lord, hear us.

**All Lord, graciously hear us.**

We unite our prayers  
with those who have prayed before us,  
with the whole company of heaven  
and in the power of the Spirit.

**All Merciful Father**  
**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,**  
**our Saviour, Jesus Christ.**  
**Amen.**

## **THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT**

---

*Please stand.*

### **THE PEACE**

---

We are the body of Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*During the Hymn, bread and wine are presented at the Altar.*

## THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

---

Down by the Riverside  
Traditional African-American spiritual

*Sung by*                    The Combined Choir of  
Archbishop Tenison's School, Croydon  
& Bishop John Robinson Primary School,  
Thamesmead

## THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

---

Wise and gracious God,  
you spread a table before us;  
nourish your people with the word of life  
and the bread of heaven.

All            Amen.

## THE 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.**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For though the human race  
is divided by dissention and discord,  
Christ calls us in his death and resurrection  
to embody hearts of change  
and his work of reconciliation.

By your Spirit you give courage to overcome fears  
and to seek the unity of all.  
By the working of your power,  
hatred is overcome by love,  
revenge gives way to forgiveness,  
and division is transformed by mutual respect and humility.

Therefore, we give you ceaseless thanks,  
and join with choirs of angels  
and with all the heavenly host,  
to proclaim your glory  
in their unending song of praise:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The President continues:*

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:  
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.  
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

**All Jesus Christ is Lord:  
Lord, by your cross resurrection  
you have set us free.  
You are the Saviour of the world.**

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.  
Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary  
and all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours,  
O loving Father, for ever and ever.

All Amen.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

---

### The Caribbean Lord's Prayer

*Led by St Edward's, New Addington*

Made one by the power of the Spirit,  
as our saviour taught us so we sing:

*Please join in with text in bold.*

Our Father who is in heaven, **hallowèd be your name,**  
your kingdom come, your will be done, **hallowèd be your name.**

On earth as it is in heaven, **hallowèd be your name,**  
give us this day our daily bread, **hallowèd be your name.**

Forgive us all our trespasses, **hallowèd be your name,**  
as we forgive those who trespass against us, **hallowèd be your name.**

And lead us not into temptation, **hallowèd be your name,**  
but deliver us from all that is evil, **hallowèd be your name.**

For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
**hallowèd be your name.**

for ever, and for ever and ever, **hallowèd be your name.**

Amen, amen, amen, amen, **hallowèd be your name.**

Amen, amen, amen, amen, **hallowèd be your name.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

---

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.

All     **Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

## AGNUS DEI

---

All     **Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.**

## THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

---

All     **God's holy gifts for God's holy people.  
Jesus Christ is holy,  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

*Please be seated. If you wish to receive Holy Communion or a blessing, please follow the directions of the Stewards. If you wish to receive from the chalice, please go to the point of administration after receiving the host. Receiving Communion in one kind is still receiving Communion in full. Please do not dip the host into the chalice.*

*If you would like to receive a blessing, please bow your head.*

*Members of all Christian churches are welcome to receive Communion. Whatever your faith tradition or background, you are most welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

*During the distribution of Communion, the Choir sings:*

## **THE COMMUNION ANTHEMS**

---

**Let Praises Rise • A'leithia Sweeting**

**I Give Myself Away • William McDowell**

## **THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

---

*Written by the Black History Month planning group.*

*Please stand.*

Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

Almighty God,  
thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your son Jesus Christ.  
May these gifts and your Word  
nourish unity in your Church  
and may your Spirit inspire us  
to treat all people with value, dignity and respect.  
By your grace,  
may a more beautiful world emerge  
from our hearts and from our communities.

**All      Amen.**

*Please remain standing.*

## THE ACT OF COMMITMENT TO RACIAL JUSTICE

---

To affirm our commitment to racial justice, we invite all to join in with lighting a candle of hope. Hope because God is still at work in our world. We believe that love is stronger than all the ills of the world. The legacies of slavery still exist in our world, and persons from different ethnicities are still the recipients of racism and acts of discrimination. We are called to let the light of God's love shine in the world.

*The congregational candles are lit, during which time the group from St Paul's Brixton will lead a time of musical reflection.*

Dear people of God, we stand in the shadow of the prophets crying out for justice and peace. God calls us to be a people of reconciliation, serving a world in need. Courageous women and men have taken the risk of standing up and speaking out for the least and the lowest. This work involves risking ourselves for the sake of God's love and moving beyond ourselves in order to seek and serve Christ and one another. We are all called to the work and ministry of social justice and reconciliation.

Therefore I ask you:

Will you persevere in prayer and fellowship?

**All With the help of God, I will.**

Will you proclaim the good news of reconciliation in both word and deed?

**All With the help of God, I will.**

Will you acknowledge and address the prejudices that keep you loving all God's children?

**All With the help of God, I will.**

Will you strive to see Christ in all persons, and value those with whom you disagree?

**All With the help of God, I will.**

Will you seek to mend what is broken by human sin and greed?

**All With the help of God, I will.**

Will you strive to speak words that liberate and heal and break the bonds of silence?

**All With the help of God, I will.**

Will you seek the perfect love which casts out all fear?

**All With the help of God, I will.**

**All** Will you work toward dismantling the sin of abuse of power?  
**With the help of God, I will.**

May almighty God empower you  
to continue his work of reconciliation,  
give you the courage to overcome fears and embody love,  
give you grace to grow in self-awareness and personal integrity,  
and strengthen you to seek the unity that is in Christ,  
that we may rejoice with all God's children  
as disciples of God's Son.

**All** Amen.

*Please be seated for:*

## **THE NOTICES**

---

**The Bishop of Croydon, The Rt Rev'd Dr Rosemarie Mallett  
Nicola Thomas, Diocesan Secretary**

*Please stand for:*

## **THE BLESSING & DISMISSAL**

---

**The Bishop of Southwark**

**All** The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

Go forth into the world in peace;  
be of good courage;  
hold fast that which is good;  
render to no one evil for evil;  
strengthen the faint hearted;  
support the weak;  
help the afflicted;  
honour everyone;  
love and serve the Lord,  
rejoicing in 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.

**All** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## THE RECESSIONAL HYMN

---

We are marching in the light of God,  
We are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching in the light of God,  
We are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, we are marching,  
Oh! We are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching, we are marching,  
Oh! We are marching in the light of God.

We are living in the love of God...

We are moving in the power of God...

We are dancing in the joy of God...

**Text & music: Siyahamba, Traditional South African,  
tr. Anders Nyberg, Andrew Maries**

*Thank you for joining us.*

*The workshop will begin shortly. For further resources to support and extend your celebration of Black History month, please scan the QR code below or visit our Diocesan webpage at <https://southwark.anglican.org/mission-ministry/faith-in-action/justice-peace-and-integrity-of-creation/antiracism/black-history-month/>*



*Please leave the Cathedral by the North West doors and the Millennium Courtyard. Please consider supporting us by giving using the contactless donation points if you have not set up a regular payment. We look forward to welcoming you back.*

---

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# SOUTHWARK

## ◆ CATHEDRAL ◆

**making space for love**  
with heart, mind, and soul

It is good to welcome you to Southwark Cathedral. Set on the south bank of the River Thames, in one of the most vibrant and diverse communities in London, this building has been a constant witness in a place of change.

The first church was built on this site around the year 606. First a convent, then a monastery, it became in 1106 the Augustinian Priory of St Mary Overie ('over-the-river'). With Westminster Abbey and St Bartholomew the Great in Smithfield, it is one of the three remaining great monastic churches of London. At the Reformation, the Priory became a parish church, and it remains so for the people of Bankside. In 1905, as south London was rapidly expanding, the church was consecrated as the Cathedral for the new Diocese of Southwark.

The Cathedral has a momentous and significant history and has had links with many famous and influential characters including St Thomas Becket, Geoffrey Chaucer, William Shakespeare and Charles Dickens. It has also been a Cathedral for those who feel on the edges of faith or society, our welcome reaching out to all people in their beautiful God-given diversity.

Here, our Christian faith is captured in our vision to 'make space for love: with heart, mind, and soul'. Faith requires our hearts to stand up for social justice, upholding integrity and kindness, and supporting the vulnerable and oppressed. It challenges our thinking, inviting our minds to be enquiring, honest, and generous. Faith also seeks to deepen our inner lives, with the arts and creativity, by sharing in the life of our community, and by learning the arts of prayer and attention. In Jesus Christ we see the human face of God, and our faith in him is our joy and our life.

We really hope you enjoy being here with us today and that we will see you again very soon.

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