

St Simon Zelotes



MORNING PRAYER ONLINE

Sunday 13 September 2026

10.00am

St Simon Zelotes Church
Milner Street
London SW3 2QF

Tel. 020 7589 8999

www.stsimonzelotes.com



Welcome

Hymn

How firm a foundation

(Children leave for Sunday School and Crèche during this hymn)

1 How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent word;
what more can he say than to you he has said,
you who unto Jesus for refuge have fled?

2 Fear not, he is with thee, O be not dismayed;
for he is thy God, and will still give thee aid:
he'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by his righteous, omnipotent hand.

3 When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
his grace all sufficient shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee, his only design
thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine.

4 The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
he will not, he cannot, desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,
he never will leave, he will never forsake.

Richard Keen (c.1787) CCLI Licence No. 1891688.

Welcoming George Walker: the Declaration of Assent and Prayer



Confession

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.

We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done, and there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy name. Amen.

Absolution

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

Responses

O Lord, open thou our lips.

All: And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us.

All: O Lord, make haste to help us.

Please stand

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

All: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.

All: The Lord's name be praised.



Choir and congregation: Responsorial Psalm 8

(Youth Group leave during this psalm)



O Lord our gov-er-nor, how glo-ri-ous is your name in all the world!

ALL O Lord our governor,
how glorious is your name in all the world!

CHOIR Your majesty above the heavens is praised
out of the mouths of babes at the breast.
You have founded a stronghold against your foes,
that you might still the enemy and the avenger.

ALL O Lord our governor,
how glorious is your name in all the world!

CHOIR When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have ordained,
What is man, that you should be mindful of him;
the son of man, that you should seek him out?

ALL O Lord our governor,
how glorious is your name in all the world!

CHOIR You have made him little lower than the angels
and crown him with glory and honour.
You have given him dominion over the works of your hands
and put all things under his feet

ALL O Lord our governor,
how glorious is your name in all the world!

CHOIR All sheep and oxen,
even the wild beasts of the field,
The birds of the air, the fish of the sea
and whatsoever moves in the paths of the sea.

ALL O Lord our governor,
how glorious is your name in all the world!



First reading: Isaiah 55:6-13

⁶ Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.

⁷ Let the wicked forsake their ways
and the unrighteous their thoughts.
Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

⁸ 'For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,'
declares the Lord.

⁹ 'As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

¹⁰ As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,

¹¹ so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
it will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

¹² You will go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and hills
will burst into song before you,
and all the trees of the field
will clap their hands.

¹³ Instead of the thorn-bush will grow the juniper,
and instead of briars the myrtle will grow.
This will be for the Lord's renown,
for an everlasting sign,
that will endure for ever.'

This is the word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God



Second reading: John 4:43-54

⁴³ After the two days he left for Galilee. ⁴⁴ (Now Jesus himself had pointed out that a prophet has no honour in his own country.) ⁴⁵ When he arrived in Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him. They had seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the Passover Festival, for they also had been there.

⁴⁶ Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay ill at Capernaum. ⁴⁷ When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death.

⁴⁸ 'Unless you people see signs and wonders,' Jesus told him, 'you will never believe.'

⁴⁹ The royal official said, 'Sir, come down before my child dies.'

⁵⁰ 'Go,' Jesus replied, 'your son will live.'

The man took Jesus at his word and departed. ⁵¹ While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. ⁵² When he enquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, 'Yesterday, at one in the afternoon, the fever left him.'

⁵³ Then the father realised that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, 'Your son will live.' So he and his whole household believed.

⁵⁴ This was the second sign Jesus performed after coming from Judea to Galilee.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God



Choir: Jubilate

O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands:
serve the Lord with gladness,
and come before his presence with a song.
Be ye sure that the Lord he is God:
it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving,
and into his courts with praise;
be thankful unto him and speak good of his Name.
For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is everlasting,
and his truth endureth from generation to generation.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning
is now and ever shall be
world without end. Amen.

Psalm 100. Music: Herbert Howells. CCLI Licence No. 1891688

The Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.



Responses

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

All: And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the King.

All: And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

All: And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people.

All: And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

All: Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us.

All: And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

Collect for the Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Keep, we beseech thee, O Lord, thy Church with thy perpetual mercy: and, because the frailty of man without thee cannot but fall, keep us ever by thy help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Morning Collects

Anthem

Rejoice in the Lord alway

Rejoice in the Lord alway, and again I say, rejoice.

Let your softness be known unto all men: the Lord is at hand.

Be careful for nothing: but in all prayer and supplication,
let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,
shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu.

Amen.

Words: Philippians 4:4-7. Music: Anon; CCLI Licence No. 1891688



Intercessions

Notices

Hymn

I heard the voice of Jesus say

1 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto Me and rest;
lay down, thou weary one, lay down
thy head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,
so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting-place,
And he has made me glad.

2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one;
stoop down, and drink, and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

3 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
and all thy day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk,
till trav'ling days are done.

Horatius Bonar (1808-1889); CCLI Licence No. 1891688



Sermon

John 4:43-54

‘Follow the Signs: The official’s son’

Joe Ammoun



Hymn

Thou whose almighty word

We take a collection during this hymn. People give in a variety of ways. Some may not be in a position to give. Please pass the plate on if that is appropriate for you. If you are a taxpayer, please use one of the Gift Aid envelopes in your pew, completing the information on the front. You can also give using the card reader located at the back of the church.

1 Thou, whose almighty word chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight; hear us, we humbly pray,
and where the gospel-day sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light.

2 Thou, who didst come to bring on thy redeeming wing,
healing and sight, health to the sick in mind,
sight to the inly blind, O now to all mankind
let there be light.

3 Spirit of truth and love, life-giving, holy Dove,
speed forth thy flight; move on the water's face,
bearing the lamp of grace, and in earth's darkest place
let there be light.

4 Holy and blessed Three, glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might; boundless as ocean's tide
rolling in fullest pride, through the earth far and wide
let there be light.

John Marriott (1780-1825). CCLI Licence No. 1891688

Blessing

Organ Voluntary

Fantasia in G major (BWV 572) - J.S. Bach

The sidesmen are Nicolas Acosta and Susan Wajih

Notices

'Hard Questions' course: September 2026

Ever wanted answers to questions like: Hasn't science disproved Christianity? What about other religions? Why does God allow suffering? Well now's your opportunity! Our 'Hard Questions' summer course is scheduled to meet at St Simon's from 7.30 to 9.00 pm on Thursday evenings in September. The next session is Thursday 17 September. Full details are available at <https://tinyurl.com/3vwtm282>, from the back of church or from Ed Rose: edward.rose@cpt.eurofinseu.com

Church Supper and Guest Service – Sunday 20 September

On Sunday 20 September, there will be an informal church supper after the evening service. The whole church family and friends are invited. If you are able to bring food or wine, or be on the welcome team, please get in touch with Beurre/Sophie at sophie.butterfield@ssz.org.uk. The service beforehand will include a talk on the evidence for God in music, maths and morality and will have guests particularly in mind.

Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation (CEASE) Annual Gala

CEASE is holding its annual gala on Thursday 24 September, 6-9pm at RSA House, 8 John Adam Street. CEASE will share the progress it has made in tackling sexual exploitation and explore the next phase of its work to counter exploitation's cultural and commercial drivers. Drinks and nibbles will be provided. If you would like to learn more, contact CEASE at contact@cease.org.uk. To RSVP for the event, please go to: <https://tinyurl.com/3mpdm27p>

Joining a Home Group in September 2026

At St Simon's, we want everyone to be growing in joy and confidence as a follower of Christ. One great way of doing that is to meet regularly with a small group of others in a Home Group. Our Home Groups meet on different evenings throughout the week, in people's homes or in church. All of them gather to read the Bible and explore its implications for everyday life, and to pray, care for and encourage each other. If you're not currently in a group but would be interested in knowing more, please speak with Joe or get in touch with him at joe.ammoun@ssz.org.uk.

Christianity Explored

One life, what's it all about? Starting Wednesday 23 September at 7.30pm, our 4 short Christianity Explored sessions are an opportunity to discuss any questions about Christianity. The sessions take place on 23 September, 30 September, 7 October, and 14 October. Christianity Explored gives you time and space to consider the big questions of life and to explore the person at the heart of the Christian faith – Jesus Christ. For more information and to sign up, please contact Joe at joe.ammoun@ssz.org.uk.

Save the date: 'Suffering wisely and well' with Dr Eric Ortland - Saturday 10 October

Why does God allow suffering? And how should Christians respond to it? On Saturday 10 October (9.30am-1.30pm), we will hold a seminar-style event in the church building on the subject of suffering, drawing our wise pastoral lessons from the book of Job. Dr Eric Ortland, lecturer at Oak Hill College, will be our main speaker. The morning will involve plenty of time for discussion and questions. There will be lunch and refreshments available. While we cannot offer childcare, we hope that interested parents will be able to make arrangements that enable them to come. To find out more, or to sign up to attend, please email Gloria at gloria.skelsey@ssz.org.uk.

More details on Dr Eric Ortland can be found here – <https://tinyurl.com/48a4m9mb>. Eric has written two books on Job, including 'Suffering Wisely and Well: the grief of Job and the grace of God which can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/ba4n9yff>.

Farewell to Mike and Liz Neville, Save the Date.

We will also be holding leaving drinks for Mike and Liz at St Simon's on Friday 6 November. Further details will follow, but please do save the date. Their last Sunday will be Sunday 15 November. There will be a Farewell Service at 10am and a church supper after the evening service. Please do save the date.

Weekly email — Associate Vicar Joe Ammoun sends out a weekly email letter each Wednesday with church family news and a short reflection. If you don't currently receive this but would like to, please get in touch with Gloria at gloria.skelsey@ssz.org.uk.