

The Gathering – first video

Welcome - [OLIVER]

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Hello, and welcome. My name is Oliver Brewer-Lennon. I'm the Vice Provost of St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow. Today, in line with government advice to stay at home, I am celebrating this mass from my flat.

'How can we know the way?' asks Thomas in today's Gospel. Indeed, it's a question a lot of people are asking at the moment. 'What's right? What should we do? What's the best way to move forward?'

Many options are before us, and a new way lies just one step over a threshold. Doors to these ways are sometimes right now closed and inaccessible, yet some are open and unguarded. Some doors lead to familiar places, and others go to who-knows-where. The images accompanying today's service showcase various types of doors. They're photos from around the City of Glasgow.

As we gather together today, we pray for God's guidance through the places and choices before us.

Confession

[KELVIN] God is love and we are God's children.

There is no room for fear in love.
We love because God loved us first.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

[Silence]

[KELVIN] God our Father, we confess to you and to our fellow members in the Body of Christ that we have sinned in thought, word and deed, and in what we have failed to do. We are truly sorry. Forgive us our sins, and deliver us from the power of evil, for the sake of your Son who died for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

[OLIVER] God, who is both power and love, forgive you and free you from our sins, heal and strengthen you by the Holy Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect - [OLIVER]

We have beheld your glory, O God,
in the face of Christ Jesus, your Son.

Enliven our faith,
that through Christ we may put our trust in you.
Deepen our faith,
that in Christ we may serve you.
Complete our faith,
that one day we may live with you
in that place which Christ prepares for us,

where he lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God forever and ever.

Amen.

The Ministry of the Word – second video

Gospel - [WOLFGANG]

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

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

Jesus said: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.'

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.
Praise to Christ our Lord.

[Organ Improvisation]

Sermon [KELVIN]

He was standing in a doorway, gazing up. One hand in his pocket, the other holding a mobile phone. But he only seemed to be speaking into it every now and then.

I looked up at the building that he was looking at but it didn't seem particularly interesting or remarkable. Just a West End tenement not unlike the one that I live in and from which I'm preaching today.

I didn't think anything more of it and pressed on with my daily walk. Up to Park Circus to see how the other half live. I walked through the buildings – not quite mansions but very fine town houses and then through all the terraces on the edge of the park and then back.

And I came down the street again almost home and he was still there. Standing in the same doorway. The mobile phone had gone – presumably in his pocket. But he was still looking up and gazing about three quarters of an hour after I first saw him.

And this time when I looked up I could see what he could see. A young woman – the same age as him sitting serenely in a window, gazing back.

No words. Just a gaze of absolute intensity and love. You could see that he was trying to break himself away and leave. But their mutual gaze kept him there.

I knew that sooner or later he would tear himself away and leave. But I also knew he would be back. For you could see that they were utterly in love. For there was forever in their eyes.

At this time of year, just before Ascension, we find ourselves reading from what are called the farewell discourses. Conversations that Jesus had with the disciples immediately after the Last Supper. They are conversations that John places at that moment in time as though Jesus was preparing them to leave them. Over the course of the next few days he would be killed and their goodbye would be in tears not in words. Then the comings and goings of his resurrection appearances – there's not much of a goodbye in most of those. He was just there and then not there again. And then the Ascension comes along and he never said goodbye then either. Just a series of hints that once the Spirit came, they could encounter him in every place at all times.

It sometimes seems throughout all this as though he can't tear himself away. His love of those closest to him is intense and true. And they recognise him sometimes by catching sight of him, they recognise him sometimes in the words that he used and they recognise him sometimes in what he did – notably recognising him when they saw bread being broken.

After the crucifixion the disciples put themselves into lockdown. They hid away out of fear. And it was to them in that situation that Jesus came. My guess is that during the time that they locked themselves away they told stories about him and kept repeating the things he had said that mattered to them.

Do not let your hearts be troubled.

Do not be afraid.

Peace be with you.

In my father's house there are many dwelling places –many mansions.

And it was to those disciples in lockdown that Jesus appeared first as they reflected on his life and death.

Soon he will be gone. And these farewell discourses are part of his leaving.

In his appearances after the resurrection, it sometimes feels as though he can't tear himself away from people he loves.

He'll do that in his own way when we get to Ascension.

But there's no doubt, no doubt at all that he will be back.

For he loves them. And He has forever in his eyes.

And he loves us too.

For if Christ were not risen from the dead, we would not be finding new ways to gather to meet him now.

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

Amen.

Intercessions [DEBBIE]

Loving God, we pray for our world. We pray for hope, co-operation and for healing in this time of pandemic, remembering especially those places where medical services are overstretched and where inequality threatens lives. We hold before you all people who are struggling to survive because of the effects of COVID-19 and all who are working to relieve suffering.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

God of the doorway to life, you dwell in us all, whether we are together or apart. We come to you in prayer for your Church across the world. We remember today the Church in Kenya, its people and its leaders. We pray for the Primus, Bishop Mark, our interim Bishop, and for Bishop Kevin, our Bishop-Elect for our diocese. And we ask your blessing on the clergy and community of St. Columba's on the Isle of Mull.

At St Mary's we pray for all our clergy and for everyone involved in the work of running the church and nurturing its life, in ways seen and unseen.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

God of truth, we pray for the realities of our community. Fill our city, our neighborhoods and our workplaces with your Holy Spirit at this time when life can feel so uncertain. We pray especially for vulnerable groups in our city, and for social care workers. May they be safe and able to work, with all they need.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

Faithful God, you are with us, everywhere. May we always know your deep peace in Christ Jesus, who is our life. We pray for all who are ill, who are anxious, and for all who mourn.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

We pray your eternal blessing on those who have died recently, including Denis Goldberg. And we remember especially at this time Rose Elizabeth Bate, whose year's mind is today. May they rest in peace, and rise in glory.

All this we pray in the name of your son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Communion – third video

You could be watching this video on a Sunday or on some other day of the week. You could be watching this on a social media platform or through a dedicated website. You could be watching everything on a phone ... or perhaps even on a television. Wherever and however you're joining in with this service, it originates from the same place: a community of faith that gathers to worship God.

Some things vary, but some things remain the same, and that includes the need for financial support from diverse places and people. In whatever way you're connecting with us, I invite you to demonstrate that connectedness through a financial contribution to this Cathedral. Find details online by clicking 'DONATE TO ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL' at www.thecathedral.org.uk.

As the grain once scattered in the fields
And the grapes once dispersed on the hillside
Are now reunited on this table in bread and wine,
So, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together
From the corners of the earth
Into your kingdom. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer - [OLIVER]

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Worship and praise belong to you, Author of all being.
Your power sustains, your love restores, our broken world.
You are unceasingly at work,

from chaos bringing order
and filling emptiness with life.

Christ, raised from the dead,
proclaims the dawn of hope.
He lives in us that we may walk in light.

Your Spirit is fire in us,
your breath is power
to purge our sin
and warm our hearts to love.

As children of your redeeming purpose,
freed by him who burst from the tomb
and opened the gate of life,
we offer you our praise,
with angels and archangels
and the whole company of heaven,
singing the hymn of your unending glory

**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.**

Praise and thanksgiving be to you,
Lord of all,
for by the Cross eternal life is ours
and death is swallowed up in victory.
In the first light of Easter glory broke from the tomb
and changed the women's sorrow into joy.
From the Garden the mystery dawned
that he whom they had loved and lost
is with us now in every place for ever.

Making himself known in the breaking of the bread,
speaking peace to the fearful disciples,
welcoming weary fishermen on the shore,
he renewed the promise of his presence
and of new birth in the Spirit
who sets the seal of freedom on your sons and daughters.

Before he was given up to suffering and death,
recalling the night of Israel's release,
the night in which slaves walked free,
at supper with his disciples
he took bread and offered you thanks.

He broke the bread,
and gave it to them, saying:

"Take, eat.

This is my Body: it is broken for you."

After supper, he took the cup,

he offered you thanks,

and gave it to them saying:

"Drink this, all of you.

This is my Blood of the new covenant;

it is poured out for you, and for all,

that sins may be forgiven.

Do this in remembrance of me."

We now obey your Son's command.

We recall his blessed passion and death,

his glorious resurrection and ascension;

and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.

Made one with him, we offer you these gifts

and with them ourselves,

a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, most merciful Father,

and send your Holy Spirit upon us

and upon this bread and this wine,

that, overshadowed by his life-giving power,
they may be the Body and Blood of your Son,
and we may be kindled with the fire of your love
and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's Body
to live and work to your praise and glory;
may we grow together in unity and love
until at last, in your new creation,
we enter into our heritage
in the company of the Virgin Mary,
the apostles, and prophets,
and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be to you,
Lord of all ages,
world without end.

Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

The living bread is broken for the life of the world.
Lord, unite us in this sign.

Lord's Prayer [KELVIN]

As our Saviour has taught us,
so we pray:

**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.
Do not bring us
to the time of trial
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Communion

Today we cannot each receive the bread and wine in person but God is present in this world.

As we gaze in our adoration we feed on God in our hearts and minds that we may in turn feed the world.

Fraction Anthem: The disciples knew the Lord Jesus

Antiphon

The disciples knew the Lord Jesus
in the breaking of the bread.

1. The bread which we break, alleluia,
is the communion of the body of Christ. [Ant.]

2. One body are we, alleluia,
for though many we share one bread. [Ant.]

Blessing & Dismissal

Jesus told his disciples: 'In my Father's house there are many dwelling places.' My thanks go to all who have contributed to today's worship from their many dwelling places. It is this variety—the wealth of spaces and the generosity of room—that mirrors the Kingdom of God.

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you this day and forever more. **Amen.**

Voluntary

Sonata in F (mvmnt 1) – C.P.E. Bach

Young church materials are available on the online worship page at www.thecathedral.org.uk/worship.