

The Gathering – first video

Welcome - [KELVIN]

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

Hello and welcome to St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow for this worship for All Saintstide. My name is Kelvin Holdsworth and I'm the Provost here.

On this day, we remember the saints through the ages who have contributed to the Christian faith. And we give thanks for our own saints – our own heroes of the faith who have taught us as individuals what it means to be one of God's beloved friends.

Today I'm standing in a church that is mostly empty but I'm looking at images of the saints that surround me in this building. As I look at them I'm remembering that the great cloud of witnesses is knit together with the cloud of witnesses that make up this congregation spread throughout the world.

Collect for Purity - [TONY]

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Confession

[AUDREY] 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]

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.

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

Gloria - [MAGNUS]

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 - [KELVIN]

Eternal God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The Ministry of the Word – second video

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:12-16 – [ANNE]

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mathew.
Glory to Christ our Saviour.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

‘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 heaven.

‘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.

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

Sermon [AUDREY]

My favorite All Saints’ Day hymn isn’t musically complex or lyrically elevating –

it’s my favorite because the earnest prayer humanizes the saints and makes their glory seem attainable by mere mortals.

It buoys the soul and encourages the listener so much more than setting one’s sight on perfect martyrdom or infallible lifetimes.

I sing a song of the saints of God,
patient and brave and true,
who toiled and fought and lived and died
for the Lord they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
and one was a shepherdess on the green:
they were all of them saints of God, and I mean,
God helping, to be one too.

When we think about saints, we often think about lives which sound so perfectly Holy that we can’t relate to them. But the whole point of honoring the saints is honoring people — ordinary people — who so trusted in God that they accomplished miraculous goodness in their lifetimes.

We often get the wrong idea about what it takes to be a saint. We either learn about modern saints and think they were somehow better than we are capable of being;

Or, we read in our bibles about the people Jesus bestowed blessings upon and think “I am not poor or blind or homeless or

hungry...”– so consciously, or subconsciously, we exclude ourselves from the possibility of becoming saints.

I’m not cut out to be a saint. The bar has been set too high.

And just like that, we absolve ourselves from even trying.

Back in March, when we began lockdown, my then two-year-old and I decorated our front windows with the word Hope. A week later, when folks across the country started decorating their homes with rainbows, we painted rainbows around our word of blessing. Every few weeks, until nursery reopened in July, we would decorate our windows with new rainbow-colored words and images of blessing. Hazel appropriately dubbed these decorating sessions, “Hope for the Neighbors.”

As time has marched on, and as Oliver preached a couple of weeks ago, the expressions of unity and togetherness have given way to apathy, frustration, exhaustion, and annoyance with continued restrictions and ordinances imposed by law makers in an effort to keep everyone safe.

Despite our best efforts, it can feel too high a bar to hold onto the hope and unity we found back in the beginning of this crazy time.

Six years ago, Nadia Bolz-Weber, a Lutheran Pastor and world-renowned author and preacher from America, shared a sermon for All Saints Day in which she reworked the Beatitudes into a modern and relatable form. As we’ve continued to march through this endless Coronatide I have been thinking a lot about the list she offered. I’ve been thinking about the ways I could see the people around me in that list.

I’ve been thinking about the ways I might snap out of the helplessness I’ve been feeling and instead be spurred into action - spreading gratitude and blessings on all of the modern-day saints I encounter in everyday life.

And so today I offer you, some Beatitudes for Coronatide: in the Year of our Lord, 2020:

- Blessed are the healers, hospital custodians, therapists, and caretakers who risk their lives to ease the breathing of their neighbors.
- Blessed are the key workers ensuring we can all access essential supplies and services during this season
- Blessed are those who contract COVID-19; that they may be healed.
- Blessed are the scientists, working towards a vaccine and effective treatments for all.
- Blessed are those who live in places where they cannot access lifesaving medical care.
- Blessed are the children whose resilience inspires us all.
- Blessed are the teachers who are learning new ways to engage students who can't fully understand the reality developing around them.
- Blessed are the families missing milestones together in an effort to shield the vulnerable, both known and unknown.
- Blessed are the faith leaders and counselors utilizing new technology in order to accompany people seeking connection in the journey of life
- Blessed are the rainbow makers for they spread hope to all who pass.
- Blessed are all who live alone, that they may feel companionship and support.
- Blessed are the parents, desperate for a moment by themselves, yet pushing through to help their children feel safe and loved;
- Blessed are the care home residents
- Blessed are the homeworkers
- Blessed are those experiencing food poverty
- Blessed are the domestic abuse victims, sheltering in place
- Blessed are the café owners supplying healthy meals to those in need
- Blessed are the refugee organizations welcoming the stranger even while the world seems so uncertain
- Blessed are the small business owners,

- Blessed are the unemployed, the furloughed, and the financially insecure
- Blessed are the artists, musicians, dancers, and actors
- Blessed are those who mourn with no more than 20 people, socially distanced by their side.
- Blessed are the mask-wearers, for we shall flatten the curve.

Back in March when we all learned that we need to work together to stop the threat of the pandemic from overwhelming our local and global health care systems, we rolled up our sleeves and for weeks and weeks we behaved as I suspect the saints would do. Now, 8 months later, we need a reminder of all we are capable of doing. We need a resurrection of the “Hope for our neighbors” campaign and a reminder of the promise God made in sending us a bow upon the clouds.

We can be that blessing still, and again. We can bless the world around us. We can be the hope we long to see.

...they were all of them saints of God, and I mean,
God helping, to be one too.

Amen.

Intercessions [OLIVER]

Let us pray.

We pray for your blessing, O God.

Bless those who feel despondent about the future.

Bless all who are grieving a loss.

Bless everyone who's trying to put others' needs ahead of their own.

Come and rule in our hearts, King of All,
Hold us close,
And restore our hope in doing good.

Bless those who are full of rage at injustice and oppression.
Bless all who can, nevertheless, muster compassion and
understanding.
Bless all who are trying to be true.

Bread of Heaven, fill us with power,
Let kindness grow,
Show your face to all who seek.

Bless those who work for peace.
Bless all who seek righteousness.
Bless those whose work is met with harassment and intimidation.

God of Truth, heal the rifts in your human family,
Renew our commitment,
Draw us toward your Kingdom.

Bless those who have been called your children:
Sadie Haldane, Janet Carstairs, Craig O'Neill and all who have
died.
Let heaven receive them with rejoicing.

Lord, come and teach us your ways,
and help us join in the company of your prophets and witnesses
to be a nuisance to all that is evil,
finding our reward with all the saints
in heaven and on earth. **Amen.**

Communion – third video

Offertory - [KELVIN]

This place is here because of many saints who support it financially. If you are one of them, thank you for doing so. If you would like to join them then it is easy to do so. Just go to thecathedral.org.uk and click on MAKE A DONATION.

Let us present our offerings to the Lord.

**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 we give you.

Eucharistic Prayer - [KELVIN]

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, Father,
in every place and at all times.

All power is yours. You created the heavens and established the
earth; you sustain in being all that is.

In Christ your Son our life and yours
are brought together in a wonderful exchange.

He made his home among us that we might for ever dwell in you.

Through your Holy Spirit you call us to new birth
in a creation restored by love.

As children of your redeeming purpose called to attain with all your
saints to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, we
offer you our praise,
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.**

Glory and thanksgiving be to you,
most loving Father,
for the gift of your Son born in human flesh

He is the Word existing beyond time,
both source and final purpose,
bringing to wholeness all that is made.

Obedient to your will he died upon the Cross.

By your power you raised him from the dead.

He broke the bonds of evil
and set your people free to be his Body in the world

On the night when he was given up to death,
knowing that his hour had come,
having loved his own,
he loved them to the end.

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 - [AUDREY]

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 - [KELVIN]

God is with us wherever we are.

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

O God, even as this broken bread was scattered over the hills, and
was gathered together and became one, so let Your Church be
gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom; for
yours is the glory and the power through Jesus Christ for ever.
Amen.

Music at Communion - [Geraldine Mynors]

1.

Why do I use my paper, ink and pen,
And call my wits to counsel what to say?
Such memories were made for mortal men;

I speak of Saints whose names cannot decay.
An Angel's trump were fitter for to sound
Their glorious death if such on earth were found

2.

That store of such were once on earth pursued,
The histories of ancient times record,
Whose constancy great tyrants' rage subdued
Through patient death, professing Christ the Lord:
As his Apostles perfect witness bare,
With many more that blessed Martyrs were.

3.

Whose patience rare and most courageous mind,
With fame renowned perpetual shall endure,
By whose examples we may rightly find,
Of holy life and death a pattern pure.
That we therefore their virtues may embrace
Pray we to Christ to guide us with his grace.

Post Communion Prayer - [TONY]

Lord of hosts, we praise your glory reflected in your saints. May we who share at this table be filled with the joy of your eternal kingdom, where Jesus is Lord, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Blessing - [KELVIN]

It has been good to join together in worship today. If you are finding a way into this congregation either through participating online or by coming to church or by a mixture of the two then do fill in a welcome card. You can find the card on the website – thecathedral.org.uk

And now the blessing...

God give you grace to follow his saints in faith and hope and love; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Music

A hymn and materials for Young Church are available on the online worship page at www.thecathedral.org.uk/worship.