

The Gathering – first video

Welcome - [OLIVER]

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

Today's Gospel tells us that the risen Christ revealed himself to the disciples where they were meeting in a private house. The Lord's appearance was simple, small, and personal.

As many of us continue to remain at home right now—for a variety of reasons—it's worth remembering that one of the Lord's first appearances after his resurrection was to sheltering people—right where they were, in their homes.

Welcome to St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, a gathering of people from buildings both private and public around the world.

Collect for Purity - [SOPHIE]

**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

[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]

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 your sins, heal and strengthen you by the Holy Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria - [ROSAMOND]

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]

God of life, source of all faith, through the waters of baptism you have raised us up in Jesus and given us life that endures. Day by day refine our faith, that we who have not seen the Christ may truly confess him as our Lord and God, and share the blessedness of those who believe. Grant this through Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Ministry of the Word – second video

GOSPEL: John 20:19-31 – [MICHAEL]

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

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas

answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

Sermon [KELVIN]

Which must have been more terrible? Jesus being killed? Or Jesus coming back again?

Which was more frightening – the events of Good Friday or the events of Easter Day.

This year, the version of the Easter story that we read on Easter Day is the original ending to Mark's Gospel. (Someone added a longer version later on which doesn't end quite so abruptly as the one that we read).

And we left the disciples pretty much terrified.

The alleluias hadn't quite started to come out of their mouths at the point. Indeed, we last heard of them in these terms – "So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid."

In this Sunday's gospel, it is still the first Easter Day but it is later on.

And the fear remains.

We are told that the doors were locked, for fear of the Jews.

That is an enormously problematic phrase for us to have in the gospels. It is too easy to hear it uncritically and allow it to shape careless anti-Semitic presumptions in our own day.

I have no doubt that the level of fear was very high in that room. After all, someone they all cared about very much had just suffered a violent death just a few days before.

My best guess is that they were afraid, very afraid of the authorities.

The door seems to have been locked for fear of the Jewish authorities. (As opposed to the Roman authorities). They were in trouble from their own religious leaders rather than the Imperial invaders.

Everyone in that room was Jewish – so they were certainly not bolting the door on Jewishness.

But I can't help but wonder whether they were also trying to bolt the door against Jesus himself.

I remember many years ago going to an Advent Quiet Day in which we were asked to reflect on the painting –“The Light of the World by William Holman Hunt”.

It depicts Jesus standing outside a door. Behold, I stand at the door and knock.”

And people had various insights into it. They loved the light and had a lot to say about the light in the painting emanating from his lantern.

And the whole thing is predicated on the idea that it is we who have to let him in.

But whoever was leading it asked me what I thought and, ever unable to keep my mouth shut and mumble something pious, I rather destroyed the holy atmosphere by saying, “Well if he was outside my door looking like that, I wouldn't let him in – he's weird and scary”.

On that first Easter Day in the evening, Jesus doesn't wait for them to unbolt the doors. He doesn't wait for the locks to be undone.

He doesn't demand that they invite him in.

As they met together, Jesus was suddenly amongst them. And he immediately starts to address the situation they are in.

He's not weird and scary, notwithstanding what has happened to him. In fact he goes out of his way to be reassuring.

They are frightened and he says "Peace be with you."

They are scared out of their wits and he says, "Peace be with you."

They know that he knows that they all did a runner when he was in trouble. And he says, "Peace be with you".

He is gracious and kind amidst their fear and confusion.

And his message takes us right back to the song that the angels sang when he was born. Peace – Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth.

Here in our own world, we also are fearful. We also have locked doors to manage and many huge questions about how to unlock them safely.

We need to be gracious and kind as we try to work out how to unbolt the doors that we have rightly had to bar against the world out of new fears.

Jesus's reassurance do seem to have worked to some extent.

A week later, the disciples are meeting again but this time there's not talk of the doors being bolted. In the light of the new normal of the resurrection, things have changed.

But not for Thomas, who wasn't there the first time around.

He's locked up. Still locked up. Locked up in his own experience and his own expectations. He is locked into what he knows.

And Jesus manages to get him to unlock the doors of his own interior reality in the same way that he did with the others.

He is gentle and kind. And he asks Thomas to reach out and touch.

I take some comfort from the idea that Jesus is prepared to deal with Thomas as an individual. That he is gentle and kind to someone who has doubted.

And his message is still the same – “peace be with you.”

But he does give a very curious blessing to Thomas. Have you believed because you have seen me he asks Thomas? Well blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.

He’s not talking about Thomas at that point. Nor is he talking about the others in the room.

He’s talking about us!

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.

The newly resurrected Lord Jesus Christ reaches across the centuries. His words come alive from the pages we have read today.

He’s not going to be limited to only blessing those who were there at the time. His blessing is upon me and you this day. And his blessing holds true, no matter what we find ourselves barring the doors against.

Jesus is risen from the grave. And in kindness, graciousness and love, he blesses not just them but us.

And that blessing is real.

For if Christ were not risen from the grave, we would not be gathered here.

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

Intercessions [ROBERT]

Holy God, in the Resurrection of your Son we see hope: hope for a just and true solution to the struggles of humanity and the ambitions of nationalism and commercial empires; hope for the planet and its life systems; hope rooted in the Divine power that alone can undergo and overcome and bring saving life.

We hear news of struggle over identity and law, with some stories of distress and violence. We are reminded that it is in the Divine undergoing and overcoming that we see the true Power that can bring life and hope. We pray for all who wield influence over the lives of others; may we live and act in resurrection life.

We pray for our communities: for those who serve as MPs and MSPs; for all involved in the upcoming Scottish Election. In their work and their contact with others may they know truth and hope. We pray that the political life of our nation may be shaped by your resurrection life.

We pray for the church of which we are part: for the church worldwide, and today The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean; for Bishop Kevin; and for the churches of the East End in Glasgow, St John the Evangelist, St Kentigern's and St Serf's; within St Mary's we pray for those who pledge and give regularly, and for all involved in stewardship and fundraising; may we all know the joy of the Risen Lord in this Easter season.

Daffodils, spring lambs and bright days give us light and life. In our dreams and plans for neighbours and loved ones: we pray for those who struggle at this time, with illness or fear; we pray for those who plan and celebrate at this time, with joy and hope; may they and we know your resurrection life in struggle and celebration.

We pray for those who have died in the last week, especially for His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh; we pray for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and the members of the Royal

Family, and with all who grieve today; in our Year's mind we remember Albert Haigh, Catherine Anderson and Alice Anderson;

We greet the Risen Lord in faith; and pray that we may be strengthened in our journeys to explore the Resurrection life of truth and hope. **Amen.**

Communion – third video

Offertory - [OLIVER]

Being in a place to experience something first-hand elicits a direct response. Thomas needed to have a physical encounter in order to have confidence in what he'd heard—before he could decide what to do. But Jesus recognises that not everyone will have that luxury. Some will have to do without an in-person meeting.

In many ways that's what all of us have had to do in one way or another during this period of lockdown, and connecting online has meant we've had to respond in different ways than we could when meeting in-person. And that includes the way we make gifts to the Church.

My thanks go to all who have made and continue to make financial contributions to sustain this Cathedral online. They are the mark of faith.

To make a gift, visit www.thecathedral.org.uk and click DONATE TO ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL today.

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 - [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 all your beloved children.

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 the Spirit's 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 - [OLIVER]

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 - [MORVEN]

Up, up my heart with gladness, and learn what did befall
When, after days of sadness, the Light was shed o'er all.
Three days, within the tomb, Jesus lay in the the gloom;
Then conquering Hell's domain he rose in glory to reign.

Straightway our Lord descended, contending Satan's might.
But when the battle ended he broke the bonde of night.
Now is the victory won; let songs of praise be sung;
And raise the banners high; for Man no more shall die.

Come then your voices raising, and join the Easter throng
Of saints and angels praising in one united song.

Jesus the God of Love, risen to reign above;
Who after such fierce strife, has gained us endless life.

*'Up, up my heart with Gladness' from the Schemelli Gesang-Buch;
Melody by Johannes Crüger (1648) harm. J.S. Bach arr. Neil
Jenkins; Text by Neil Jenkins*

Post Communion Prayer - [SOPHIE]

Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.

Amen.

Blessing - [OLIVER]

Jesus told his disciples they all shared the same marching orders. 'As the Father has sent me, so I send you', he said. Jesus instructs his disciples to go into the world proclaiming God's mercy, just as they've seen him do.

This remit hasn't changed. It is the response all of us are asked to make to what we ourselves have encountered. I am grateful to all who have shared their witness in this worship today.

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 among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Voluntary - [STEVEN]

Hymne au Soleil - Vierge

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

There is an online coffee hour on Sunday at 1 pm. Details in the weekly congregational email. Sign up for emails at www.thecathedral.org.uk