

## The Gathering – first video

### Welcome - [KELVIN]

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

Good morning, and welcome to St Mary's Cathedral in Glasgow. I'm Kelvin Holdsworth, the Provost here. We hear in our gospel today of Jesus sending the disciples out into the world. Today we are scattered all over the same world. Joined in our hearts with those who first shared the Good News, we gather this day to pray, to reflect and to worship.

### Confession

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

### Gloria - Rutter

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]**

Compassionate God, your word calls labourers to the harvest.  
Send us who are blest with the gift of your kingdom to announce  
its coming with gladness and to manifest its healing power. We  
make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, 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**

**Readings: Matthew 9:35 - 10:8 – [PEGGY]**

Hear the Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

### **Sermon [MATTHEW]**

“The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few.”

There’s something incredible about being called by name.

Those as old as I am perhaps would remember the quiz show 'The Price is Right'.

I do hope at least some of you are nodding and those of you who are will remember too that, after some dreadful jokes by the host, the late Bruce Forsyth, an announcer would call out the names of audience members and invite them to 'Come on down' and they would, of course, participate in the show.

The delight and surprise that they had been called or chosen was tremendous and written all over their faces. The prizes weren't that big in relation to modern day quiz shows but for these people it was a life changing moment.

Being identified – being known – being brought into a new situation really is a game changer for many, if not all of us.

Throughout scripture we hear of many who are called for particular tasks and if we compare them we see that no two calls are ever the same; often the tasks they are to undertake are initially unknown and often unexpected and even scary when revealed.

We hear of the call of Moses in the Old Testament coming from of a bright flame, when God called him to return to Egypt from the wilderness to lead the people to freedom.

A call can emerge too in the stillness of the night, as when God called to the young Samuel to share a prophecy of what he would do to the House of Eli – and in so doing set him on a path to being one of the great prophets of the Old Testament.

Calls can even come from the most magnificent of heavenly visitors, as when the angel appeared before the young Mary to tell her that she was destined to become the Theotokos; the God bearer – the mother of the Messiah.

In today's Gospel, Jesus has called these 12 men to give them, if you like, their marching orders. Their task, their mission they are instructed is to cure the sick; to raise the dead; cleanse the lepers and to cast out demons.

He has called them that they may embark on the next step of their ministry.

Admittedly, he is asking them to do things that seemed were only in his power to accomplish; things that seemed impossible – things that were perhaps unknown, unexpected and even scary.

But for me, there's something deeper here that extends beyond being just a moment when Jesus waved them over and said, "Okay, guys. Here's what you need to do."

I find the deeper significance in the two verses in which the disciples are summoned and then a roll call is given of who they were.

The 12 are specifically identified in this passage – and I think that's significant because Jesus undoubtedly called them by name and for particular reasons.

We are all known to Christ.

He has known our names since the beginning of time; as the writer of Jeremiah tells us, "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you."

These 12 – before they ever encountered Jesus, he knew all of them.

And he knows you and he knows me.

We are known in the ordinariness of life, like the disciples were, but just as he saw in the disciples, Jesus sees that all of us are extra-ordinary.

Jesus knows us in our everyday lives; at our desks, in our gardens; setting up coffee hour or preparing the altar; he knows too us as we struggle with lockdown and as we support others who struggle.

In every experience we have, in every task we perform, in all we do, Jesus is there.

During these difficult times of Corona virus, Jesus is there. We may find it difficult at times to experience his presence but Jesus is there.

He is there in our isolation; He is there in our distancing, he is there in our high and our low moments, in our joys and in your sorrows; in our waking and in our sleeping.

He is calling our names. He is calling us to the same work of his disciples. And he is asking us to call to others.

But more than calling us; Jesus is challenging us. Challenging us to consider what our and the church's response should be and during these uncertain times we are challenged more.

We may be in lockdown and socially distancing or shielding but we are still called to mission.

And what is the mission God has for us? To being living examples of the nearness of the kingdom of God – we are called to be the face of our loving God; a face we make known to those who may never have experienced God in their lives; our mission is to those who struggle and find life difficult at times.

This is a mission, that in 'Normal' times, we've taken too readily and enthusiastically; mission I've witnessed in the incredible outreach ministries that are part of our Cathedral community. I've see the response to these calls – I've witnessed our acting as missionaries – in all that we have done and continue to do as we all struggle through difficult times?

For many throughout the world, the requests for help are met with a question: "What can we do?"

For all of us, I see a vision that extends well beyond that; for us, the question is extended to include, "What do we do next?"

God's call has come to each one of us. We have heard our names and the request to serve, and we have responded.

So what now?

Will we be able to heed Christ's instruction to raise the dead or cure lepers? I think that's highly unlikely.

But despite that, there is much that we can do. We can call to those on the margins and bring them into community. We can reach out in a different way to those in need of God's love.

I believe we are being called, in the midst of this pandemic, to find, indeed, to embrace the new ways of being present to one another.

We are challenged by today's Gospel not to give up hope but to embrace our new way of being and reach out to tend to the needs of our neighbours; to our friends and family and more besides and expand the church's reach into a frightened and scary world.

Our unique call from God is simple; "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few"; and we are reminded today to 'ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.' to send you and to send me; even, if for a while, that is done in the virtual world! Amen.

### **Intercessions [PAT]**

Jesus of compassion and care, we are living in a strange season where crops ripen which were unlooked for, or which fill us with foreboding — but the imperative of your kingdom to go into the fields of need and be good news there — remains unchanged.

We pray for all working in fields where that which was familiar has disappeared, especially those involving in faith communities: in the wider world we remember today the Church in Myanmar; here in our own City that of St Brides, with Kevin Francis and Gregor Duncan; and in our diocese Mark Strange, our Interim Bishop; and Kevin Pearson our Bishop-elect.

And we pray too for our close neighbours and friends at the Al Furqan mosque, and Guru Nanak Gurudwara.

May they remain calm and steady in their calling and be bold in exploring new possibilities for community and worship.

Jesus of compassion, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all working in fields of new possibility — especially those at the the rapidly expanding and evolving interfaces of online connection and culture: for those responsible for the Cathedral's website; for all who work hard each week to provide resources for online gathering and worship; and for those working in education who face the daunting challenges and workloads of developing new ways of teaching.

May they find the inspiration, creativity and energy to develop rich and dynamic new ways of being and doing.

Jesus of compassion, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all in fields where the harvest is one of tears: for for those for whom the prospect of a lonely or frightening end — because of illness, war or street violence — is all too real; for all who have seen those they love in such circumstances; and for those who walk alongside them providing support or offering solidarity.

May they know your presence standing with them in the face of these storms, to shelter and comfort them.

Jesus of compassion, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those for whom the harvest of this age is gathered in:

For George Floyd and Glenn Jordan; and, at her year's mind, for Eliza Smith. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Jesus of compassion, **hear our prayer.**



And we pray for ourselves that wherever you have called us to work we may do so in ways which speak of the justice, joy, and peace which are the harvest of your Kingdom

Jesus of compassion, **hear our prayer.**

**Amen.**

## Communion – third video

### Offertory - [KELVIN]

Standing at this altar, I want to offer thanks for all those who have supported what we do at St Mary's this week. If you would like to join those of us who give regularly, please go to the website [thecathedral.org.uk](http://thecathedral.org.uk) and click on DONATE TO ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

### Eucharistic Prayer - [KELVIN]

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.

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  
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 - [OLIVER]**

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.

## **Music at Communion**

‘Brother, Sister, let me serve you’ (verses 1 and 2), words and music by Richard Gillard - [MORVEN]

## **Blessing & Dismissal - [KELVIN]**

My thanks go to all the modern disciples who have contributed to sharing the good news of Jesus in this service today.

There is an online coffee hour gathering at 12 noon each Sunday and it is always good to greet people there. To get details of how to join that gathering, sign up for the regular emails that I send to the congregation on the website [thecathedral.org.uk](http://thecathedral.org.uk). Just click on “Join the mailing list”.

But now the blessing:

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus our Lord: And the blessing of

God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Materials for the young church are available on the online worship page at [www.thecathedral.org.uk/worship](http://www.thecathedral.org.uk/worship).*