

# The Gathering

## 1 - Welcome - [OLIVER]

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

Welcome to St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow.

Sometimes when good things happen, you can't help but dance and sing. That was the experience of Mary in today's Gospel. She was bursting with joy, praising God for what God had done.

Today at the Cathedral—on this the patronal feast day—we listen to Mary. May we find ourselves rejoicing with her—compelled, irresistibly, to sing along.

## 3 - Collect for Purity - [Jo]

**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.**

## 5 - 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.**

### **7 - Gloria - [MORVEN]**

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.

### **8 - Collect - [OLIVER]**

Faithful to your promise, O God, you have lifted up the lowly, clothing with heavenly splendour the woman who bore Christ, our life and resurrection. Grant that the Church, prefigured in Mary, may bear Christ to the world and come to share his triumph. We

ask this 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

### 11 - GOSPEL: Mark 6:14-29 – [JIM]

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

**Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious gospel

**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

### 12 - Sermon [KELVIN]

My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.

When the Scottish Parliament abolished in 1707, it was said that its demise was the end of an auld song.

And in that phrase you can hear the perennial gloom of the Scottish imagination. The melancholy. The pathos. The mist in the glen. That sense that it was all better, back in the day.

And much was made of taking up the song again when the parliament was reconvened in 1999. Indeed, the parliament was reconvened with singing in the debating chamber.

Last year, in March it seemed to me as though the end of the world had come. This church building was shut up at less than a week's notice and we were unable to meet. Unable to celebrate the Eucharist together. Unable to keep the feasts. Unable to sing. The world was changed and it felt as though something had come to a close.

How were we going to sing the Lord's song in this new and so very strange land?

Months later, we were given permission to consider whether to re-open the building. And exactly a year ago this weekend we decided to re-open.

Very tentatively. Very hesitantly. Very, very cautiously.

Church started again and relatively small numbers of us gathered in this place and worship resumed, though it has not been without interruption in the year since.

We decided to re-open on our feast day a year ago today. For today is the day the church celebrates Mary.

Mary of Nazareth.

Mary of the Magnificat.

Mary of Glasgow.

For she is the saint in whose glorious honour this church is dedicated.

Last year when we re-opened, we could read Mary's song from Luke's gospel but there was no way that we could sing it.

This year things are different. Changed. Not restored to what we knew but changed considerably from where we were a year ago.

I think that when the church remembers the saints, it sometimes makes the mistake of thinking that we are simply remembering the great deeds, great courage, great songs of those greater than us, long, long ago.

If we have a melancholy personality, we can very easily get into the mood of thinking that things were all so much better so very long ago.

Here's tae us. Wha's like us.

Gey few and there's a' deid!

The melancholy. The pathos. The mist lingers in the glen, obscuring our view of the sun.

But the challenge of keeping feast days is the challenge of remembering that they are not a' deid at all.

They live. And so does their faith.

The challenge of keeping feast days is to think about what the world might be like if we are able to recognise that the saints are still with us. Still inspiring us with their great deeds. Still giving us courage to live the faith in our own day. And still singing songs of the love of God that are not about the past but very much about the present – the here and now where we are still much loved by God. And about the future that God calls us to usher in.

There is no greater song of the Love of God than Mary's song which we read in the gospel today.

My soul magnifies the Lord.

It is an auld song. But it is a song that we take up afresh again and again in this place.

And it is a new song every time we do.

So what does it mean to sing the Magnificat of Covid?

*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on His humble servant.*

And we have re-opened. We have reconvened. We have started to sing again.

The world has been humbled by Covid but God's love is not defeated. If it wasn't defeated by Good Friday it isn't going to be defeated by a virus.

*From this day all generations will call me blessed,  
the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is His Name.*

And in our day, we will count our many blessings. The inspirations of modern science. The hard work of those in the vaccine programme. The care and attention of so many trying to work out how to be the eyes and ears and hands and feet of God's body in the world today.

For holy, holy, holy is the name of the Lord. And in the name of the Lord, holy and righteous and loving things will still be done.

*He has mercy on those who fear Him  
in every generation.*

Mary sang of God's mercy in an occupied land with no modern science, no universal healthcare and no safe place for the baby.

If God's mercy could be known then, God's mercy and sweet grace can be known now.

*He has shown the strength of his arm,  
He has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,  
and has lifted up the humble.*

God's justice is not something for past days. It is something to be fought for now. Justice for the poor. Justice in relation to PPE procurement. Justice for the planet. Climate justice for all.

*He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich He has sent away empty.*

Money never satisfies spiritual hunger. It never did and it never will.

*He has come to the help of His servant Israel  
for He has remembered his promise of mercy,  
the promise He made to our forebears,  
to Abraham and his children for ever.*

God's promises are still true. God's promises to Mary held true in the most unlikely times and the most unfortunate circumstances.

She carried the Christ child who carried the message of God's love to us.

She knew in her body that God loved her.

And that promise holds true for us.

God's love for body and soul.

Balm for those hurting.

Food for those hungry.

Safety for those fearful.

And God's glory shining through it all.

It isn't an auld song.

It is today's song.

Glory to the father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now in Covid time, and shall be for ever.

The love of God in the beginning. The Love of God, now in Covid time and the love of God for ever and ever.

Amen.

#### **14 - Intercessions [KELVIN]**

Let us pray for the life of the world;  
that God's peace may be known and may prevail:

For the city of Glasgow.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For all who suffer injury, death or loss;  
that they may know the hope to which God call us:

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For all who exercise rule and authority;  
that they may act with wisdom, justice, compassion and integrity:

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For the Church which is Christ's body; that it may live for the praise of God:

For this cathedral as we celebrate our feast day. For the Diocese and for Bishop Kevin in his life amongst us.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

For those who have died ...

May they rest in peace, **And rise in glory.**

Hear us as we pray O Lord. For we pray in the company of Mary, in name of Jesus Christ her Son and in the power of the Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Communion

#### **17 - Offertory - [OLIVER]**



Mary is overcome with the generosity of God, and her life is lived out in response to that. Those who, with Mary, stand in awe of God's goodness find this overwhelming feeling contagious. They want to pass it on.

To make a financial contribution that imparts what you have received with those that come here to find God's grace, visit [www.thecathedral.org.uk](http://www.thecathedral.org.uk) and click DONATE TO ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL. Thank you for sharing in God's generosity.

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.**

## **18 - Eucharistic Prayer**

[OLIVER] The Lord be with you.

[KELVIN] **And also with you.**

[OLIVER] Lift up your hearts.

[KELVIN] **We lift them to the Lord.**

[OLIVER] Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

[KELVIN] **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  
who honour Mary, chosen mother of your Son,  
and with all generations call her blessed,  
we offer you our praise,  
with angels and archangels  
and the whole company of heaven,  
singing the hymn of your unending glory:

### **SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS - [MORVEN]**

**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 God's children 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.**

**19 - Breaking of the Bread - [OLIVER]**

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

**20 - 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.**

**21 - 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.**

#### **24 - Post Communion Prayer - [Jo]**

God of grace, today we raise our voices to magnify your holy name, and in our own generation to call her blessed who became the mother of our Saviour Jesus Christ. May we who have shared this holy food continue with her in your glorious kingdom, founded and established in Jesus Christ our Lord. We ask this in his name.

**Amen**

#### **25 - Blessing - [OLIVER]**

Today we celebrate the Mother of the Lord—faithful and courageous. May we, taking our inspiration from Mary, be moved to follow in her footsteps—to raise our voices with hers to speak up and speak out.

My thanks go to all who have declared God's power here today.

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary, fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will; 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]**

Sonata in F (mvmnt 1) – C.P.E. Bach

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