

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 the second Sunday of Epiphany. My name is Kelvin Holdsworth and I'm the Provost here.

At this time, most of us are not able to be here in church. But many have spoken to me of how important it is to see this place in these worship videos. Watching them each week feels like a gateway or a door or a window into being right here.

In Epiphany, we get gospel stories that work like that with heaven – glimpses, doorways, portals into eternity. God is revealed in Jesus – often suddenly and often unexpectedly.

Let this online gathering for worship today give us each a sense that God is present with us wherever we are. May we each experience our own little Epiphany of God's love and care.

Collect for Purity - [HOS]

**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

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

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.

Collect - [KELVIN]

From our earliest days, O God,
you call us by name.

Make our ears attentive to your voice,
our spirits eager to respond,
that, having heard you in Jesus your anointed one,
we may draw others to be his disciples.

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 – second video

GOSPEL: John 1.43-51 – [ROS]

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

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to

know me?’ Jesus answered, ‘I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.’ Nathanael replied, ‘Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!’ Jesus answered, ‘Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.’ And he said to him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.’

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

Sermon [OLIVER]

It’s happened to everyone. You hear someone tell a story describing an event you were at but with details not precisely as you remember them. You listen carefully, but at some point—without thinking—your eyes dart left. Maybe your lip twists. You think, ‘Is that what happened? I’m not sure that’s right.’ But perhaps you’re mistaken.

All of us have different memories. Although we might like to think somewhere up there our minds contain a continuous record, our internal memoirs are more like camera snapshots, with details of the in-between filled in by our brains. Memories are constructed, and things can alter them. It’s surprising how easily that can happen. Through others’ suggestions, the sharing of different versions of an event, and the minds’ amplification and embellishment, folk can clearly remember things that, in actuality, never happened.

Since the United States election, many have shared in hearing and telling a story about its outcomes. Over time, with repetition and details shared and enlarged, a false narrative developed of widespread voter fraud and misconduct. To some, the story has become so real they speak as if they believe it to be the most profound truth they know. They express themselves with conviction, specificity and passion, without any first-hand experience of the situation. It’s a story told in vivid technicolour that never was.

It isn't just Trump supporters who believe they've seen something, who express themselves with such surety about the world. Others watched the attacks on the United States capitol in disbelief, claiming, 'This is not the real America.' As if saying it makes it true, they label Trump supporters who backed the attempted coup a minority fringe group—even though a bevy of data says otherwise.

Nathanael was sure nothing good could come from Nazareth. Often, it's that which resonates with us—what affirms our sneaking suspicions—we integrate into our worldview. We take the information available to us and use it to make meaning from where we are. Mostly, people see what's in front of them.

That's why I believe the key phrase from today's Gospel—the one we must pay attention to—is Philip's invitation: come and see. And the operative word here is 'come'. Come, because we do not see everything from where we are. Come, because we're going to have to change our viewing platform, shift from our current location, stir our minds. If we want to know what God is doing, we must be able to see more than what's here, in our own constructed realities and information bubbles.

Some of you might wonder if I'm stuck on repeat—like *déjà vu*. 'Does Oliver have more than one sermon, because I feel like I've heard this one before.' Indeed, you probably have heard something like this. Believe you me: I tried this week to think of something else. I prayed that God might reveal something other than a message it seems I've become obsessed with. Surely there was more to this sermon than three little words; but try as I might, I couldn't ignore them.

A few verses earlier in this Gospel, Jesus invited the two disciples who asked about him to 'Come and see'. Later, the woman who met Jesus at the well tells those in the city, 'Come and see'. People at the grave of Lazarus summoned Jesus to 'come and see' where they laid him. To get a glimpse of what was going on, folk had to get up. To understand what was being said, they had to move. I haven't cherry-picked a phrase from John's Gospel. 'Come and see' is a persistent refrain.

Here is where Christianity presents a radical idea. Some faiths—even some Christian practices of faith—may tell you, ‘Everything you need to know is right in front of you. You don’t need to go anywhere to discover what is true.’ But read the Gospel. Jesus calls his disciples away. Indeed, Jesus himself is continuously on the move. Time and again, we read of people leaving the places they are to discover something new. It is the Way. Christianity isn’t a sedentary faith. ‘Follow me,’ says Jesus.

None of us on this planet has the best seat in the house. Our view of the earth’s farthest edge from where we stand isn’t that distant. If we have to squint our eyes to shut out things we don’t want to see, if we seek out alternative social media platforms that amplify viewpoints like ours, if we believe that only a small number of people know what’s really going on in the world, maybe we should reposition ourselves to get another view. If something different is happening beyond what we know, perhaps it’s time we come and see what it is.

Intercessions [PAT]

God of vision and order

We pray for all those caught up in the current political, economic and social confusion and chaos affecting so much of our world.

For the people of the United States in this week of transition and for the new administration as it takes the reins of government.

For all reeling from the fall-out of Brexit as its realities begin to bite, who face the loss of their businesses and livelihoods, or caught in border delays and chaos; and for all trying to find solutions and ways forward.

For those in this land who fall into the cracks and crevices caused by the failures of our politics: the homeless, the hungry, refugees and asylum seekers; and for all who work alongside them and who seek to hold those in authority to account.

Oh God - give us all a vision of a better world, a more caring way, and the will to work for it. In your love - hear our prayer

God of compassion and healing

We pray for all those enduring distress and disruption in these present times:

For the thousands of women and children who suffered as a result of the attitude and behaviour of mother and baby homes in Ireland.

For those suffering from or seeing their loved ones suffer as a result of this latest wave of Coronavirus; those waiting investigation or treatments which are now on hold; and for all in our overstretched health and support services.

Oh God - give us all a compassionate heart, and the strength to care for others in whatever ways we can. In your love - hear our prayer

God of hospitality and connection

We pray for your church across the world, remembering especially today the Anglican Church of Australia and the churches of All Saints Bearsden and St Michael and All Angels, Helensburgh.

We remember our brothers and sisters in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Glasgow as they mourn the death of Archbishop Philip Tartaglia. May he rest in peace and rise in joy.

And we pray for the particular communities into which we are each woven, giving thanks for the way in which they support and nourish us

Oh God - give us all a welcoming heart, and the willingness to always reach out and make a place for others. In your love - hear our prayer.

Amen.

Communion – third video

Offertory - [KELVIN]

Week by week as a congregation we are carrying on the work that Jesus gave his disciples – letting people know that God loves them.

If you would like to help to enable this to happen then please join those who make a regular offering to St Mary's. There's details of how to do so on the cathedral's website: thecathedral.org.uk. Just go there and click on DONATE TO ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL for more details.

And thank you.

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
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 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 - [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 - [Magnus]

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness, make thy way plain before my face.

For it is thou, Lord, only, that makest me dwell in safety.

Post Communion Prayer - [HOS]

Light eternal, you have nourished us in the mystery of the body and blood of your Son. By your grace keep us ever faithful to your word, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Blessing - [KELVIN]

My thanks go to everyone who has helped to make this worship happen this week and also to those ensuring that the building is maintained at this time.

I'll be online at 1 pm on Sunday as usual for the online coffee hour. The details of how to join that are in the weekly email that I send to those who want to receive it. To get the emails, just sign up at thecathedral.org.uk and remember to check your spam or junk mail box if you haven't received the confirmation email. There's

also a Welcome Card on the website for anyone who is watching these videos week by week and by doing so is finding a way into the congregation.

But now the blessing...

Christ the Son of God gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Voluntary - [FRIKKI]

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