

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 this online worship from St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow. My name is Kelvin Holdsworth and I'm the Provost here. Today, Scotland is still in lockdown and so most people will be watching this video from their homes. Today I welcome you to my own home and we'll be joined by other members of the congregation from their homes as we come together to celebrate and share in the good news of Easter—for Christ is Risen. He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

This week, the photographs that we are using in our worship will take us back to the Cathedral. But as the gospel indicates, sometimes we don't see things clearly at first. Sometimes it takes time for everything to be revealed clearly. Perhaps this week we'll see things from a fresh perspective. Perhaps we'll see things in a new way.

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]

[OLIVER] 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 (in Latin)

Translation:

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]

Faithful God, who loves us in Christ Jesus, send your Spirit of truth to dwell within us, that we may always reject what is false, live by the commands of Christ, and be true to the love you have shown us. 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 14:15-21 - [Uche]

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

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

Jesus said, 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

Sermon [HELENA]

The Lectionary isn't following John's chronology today, but we read this Gospel in preparation for Ascension and Pentecost. It makes sense to us, because we know the story rather than being in the midst of it as the Apostles were.

They must have been confused. Jesus says he is leaving and is coming to them. The Apostles will see him, but others will not. Then there is the mysterious Advocate, the Spirit of Truth who will come from God, but they already know this Spirit because it is now and will be in them—and Jesus will be in the Father as well as in them.

Summarized like that it sounds like a Nacht und Nebel scenario from Doctor Who. Lots of Night and Fog and multiple realities compressed into seven short verses.

Yes, Jesus did rise from the dead as he promised, on the third day, but the problem with this 'he is or he isn't' passage is that there is no telling how long the Apostles will have to wait for this next thing to happen. There is no fixed date when the night and fog will end.

The future is unknowable, except for the promise that Jesus will not leave them orphaned. For those of us who are already humming William Byrd's anthem, he will not leave them 'comfortless.'

'Orphaned' is the Greek word Jesus uses, but it doesn't just mean having lost parents. It used to mean the loss of any person, family or not, on whom one was deeply dependent, whom one loved and was loved by.

There is another similar word some scholars think is the right one, spelled very much like 'orphan', meaning obscure or dark. The Apostles must have felt very much in the dark about the future.

That has now become a familiar feeling.

Waiting with no end in sight. Only the promise of the Advocate, the Spirit of truth, yet to come but already in us.

What is this Spirit of truth, in us and yet to come? How can we discover it in this peculiar time? Maybe it is a blessing when even the Internet, or experimenting in the kitchen, or TV box sets and books all begin to leave us bored and twitchy. What are we hiding from with all these distractions?

I suspect it is ourselves, unvarnished, hating feeling helpless and all too aware of our mortality in the face of something no one understands.

Who am I when I can no longer hide from myself? Does God know me too well to be my Advocate?

Suppose the comfort we are promised in this fog is not meant to distract us with a warm cuppa and a freshly baked biscuit? What if it is the old-fashioned kind from the days when ‘to comfort’ meant to strengthen, as in the caption under the picture of Bishop Odo on the Bayeux Tapestry rallying the Conqueror’s army for battle....

What if we are not meant to be passively waiting or even doing detailed planning for our lives to resume as normal? What if we are meant to be living these precious moments in the light of truth, in the clear Easter light of Christ? To wake up and rally our courage to be fully alive in Christ now and in the future—alive as we have never been before?

Intercessions [PAT]

Jesus, you spent your life making, shaping, and being held yourself
in nets of love, connection and support.

We pray today for the nets which shape and structure our world: for the complex networks of government across the globe as they make choices affecting the wellbeing of millions; and for all who provide the information necessary to make sound choices.

Give insight, understanding and discernment to those who interpret health, logistical and economic data and; and to those making choices the humility, wisdom and courage to make ones beyond political ideologies and interests.

God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the overstretched and under-resourced networks of provision and care which are keeping us safe, functioning and well:

For all working in hospitals, clinics and care homes; and for those who provide the services enabling them.

For those working with people who have no support networks, or who are trapped in abusive ones.

For all those who are maintaining essential services and supplies.

We pray for their safety and wellbeing; may they receive the care and support which they themselves need and find reserves of strength, hope and grace to sustain them through this time.

God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the world-wide network of all who give spiritual support, guidance and consolation as part of the rich and diverse tapestry of faith and belief which mark human existence and expression

From within our own tradition we pray today for Bishop Moses Naguin Yoo in Korea; Bishops Mark Strange, Kevin Pearson and John Ames, here in Scotland; and Dominic Ind, Pat Smith, Kevin Boak as they lead the church of St Michael and All Angels, Helensburgh.

May they find deep joy and delight in these responsibilities and may their own experience of the divine continually deepen and develop.

God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the networks of love into which ourselves are woven

and pray for the wellbeing of all who matter deeply to us

And we pray for those whose networks have been disrupted by the death of loved ones - especially today the family and friends of Adnan Olbeh; and of David McFaddyen's uncle - also called David McFaddyen.

May they find comfort and consolation in this time of grieving

And, at their year's mind, we remember Nancy Isabella Duvoisin;
Eric Jolly, Mary Elizabeth Allan and Olive Grant.

May the souls of all the departed rest in peace and rise in glory.

God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

And we pray for ourselves that we may know that we are all, and
always, Held in the great net of love, which is the life of your
Trinity. And may we likewise remain together in love, attentive
and responsive to each other's needs.

God, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

Communion – third video

Our worship these days is very different to the way it was not long ago. But my hope is that people will still feel that they are part of a shared commitment to a religious expression that is open, inclusive and welcoming. We are not gathered together in one place at the moment but we are gathered together in prayer and fellowship.

Part of the way in which we can share responsibility for making sure that our worship continues is by making an offering. If you don't already make a regular offering, please join those of us who already do so. There are details of how to make a regular offering or a one off donation on the website - thecathedral.org.uk. Just click on 'DONATE TO ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL' for more details.

As the grain once scattered in the fields
And the grapes once dispersed on the hillside
Are now reunited on this table in bread and wine,
So, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together
From the corners of the earth
Into your kingdom. **Amen.**

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, 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 your sons and daughters.

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 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: Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (J.S. Bach) - [LES AND RONA]

Blessing & Dismissal

Whoever you are, wherever you are today, and whatever is happening to you, God loves you.

My thanks to all those who have helped to plan and prepare the worship for today which has helped us all to share once again the good news of that love with one another and the world.

Let us pray that God will bless us and reveal to us daily how to share that love with all whom we encounter.

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 upon you this day and forever more. **Amen.**

Voluntary

Praeludium in C, BuxWV 138 - D. Buxtehude

Young church materials and a choir anthem are available on the online worship page at www.thecathedral.org.uk/worship.