

# The Gathering

## 1 - Welcome - [AUDREY]

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

Welcome to worship this morning at St Mary's Cathedral in Glasgow. We're so glad that you're here to celebrate the Lord's Day with us.

## 3 - Collect for Purity - [SHONA]

**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.**

[AUDREY] 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 - [AUDREY]**

Most glorious God, in Jesus you show us that your will is to save. Grant to us your people the boldness to desire a place in your kingdom, the courage to drink the cup of suffering, and the grace to find in service the glory you promise. 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 10:35-45 – [LESLEY]**

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

**Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, 'Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.' And he said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' And they said to him, 'Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.' But Jesus said to them, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?' They replied, 'We are able.' Then Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.'

When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, 'You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious gospel

**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

### **12 - Sermon [PAULA]**

I went through my school days with the same group of girls, from primary through to leaving secondary. One girl, Joanna, will be familiar to you, not because you went to my school but because we all know a Joanna. She was nice...actually she was more than

nice, she was pretty, without being vain, responsible without being boring, clever without being boastful and effortlessly popular, more than nice, in fact, Joanna was great! And the thing is with greatness, even among schoolgirls, is that everyone around senses it and wants to be close. Perhaps we hoped it would rub off on us, but, sad to say, we girls competed, seriously competed to be close to Jo...the best Christmas card, the best birthday present, sit next to in class, be on the same sports team etc. We were, okay, I was, absolutely shameless in my pursuit of being close to someone I believed to be great.

Philip Larkin said that, “to be ambitious is to fall in love” and I think we were all just a little bit in love with Jo.

I think it was the same for James and John in our gospel reading this morning. Remember for a moment what sights and sounds these two fishermen had seen since they joined Jesus and consider then where they came from. James and John, sons of Zebedee were indeed fishermen, but they owned their own boat and as such they would have employed others. Fishing at that time was a good business, Lake Galilee was a rich fishing ground, much of their catch would have been pickled and exported, so these fishermen probably weren't the humble and subsistence fishermen we have come to believe. Add to that, in less than three years they had witnessed Jesus healing, walking on water, miraculously feeding thousands of people. They had heard Jesus teaching, in a new and exciting way, different from any other Rabbi, and they had recently witnessed, with Simon Peter, his transfiguration. To these ambitious fishermen, that wasn't the greatness of my schoolyard, that must have been mind-blowing!

James and John didn't really understand what Jesus was saying to them, they didn't understand his greatness, just that he was great. Just before our gospel reading, Jesus had foretold his death and resurrection for the third time. They didn't understand, despite Jesus telling them, that the cup he spoke of was one filled with vitriol, persecution and sour wine. They didn't understand that

Jesus' true greatness would lay in his giving his life to serve and save us.

What James and John did understand was how much they wanted to be close to Jesus, what seems like naked ambition, was a love for Jesus that they could not at that stage articulate, other than in this desire to be near such greatness, the like none of us have ever seen.

It's entirely understandable that the other disciples, when hearing what James and John had asked of Jesus that they should be angry with the brothers, like my young self, I expect they all wanted to be at the side of Jesus in his glory.

I wonder if you, like me, ever emulated the people you thought were great, whether it was a friend or peer, a singer, or sports star, perhaps you copied their fashion or mannerisms? Because for the disciples, I think it was more than wanting to be near to Jesus' greatness, they wanted to emulate Jesus but weren't sure how, because as we've noted they didn't yet understand who Jesus was or the path he had to take.

The disciples' only reference for greatness before meeting Jesus were the Roman rulers at that time who were fiercely ambitious, Herod Agrippa even sought a royal title, while Governor Pilate was said to be a harsh, spiteful and brutal man. The kings of the OT they'd learnt of were autocratic with unlimited authority and no accountability, with affluent lifestyles, revered wherever they went.

Jesus gave them a new perspective on greatness which inverted all that they previously believed, that in order to be great, they had to become humble servants. So, whereas the Gentile rulers could and did do as they wished with the peoples under them, to emulate Jesus' greatness the disciples must serve the people, to be first among them, they had to be enslaved to all. Then Jesus told them again that his service would be to give his life for humanity.

Jesus' teaching about the greatness of service is a lesson for us all. True greatness isn't about ambition or competition it's about the

selflessness of love. Perhaps, we might dwell longer today on the words at the end of the service, “to go in peace to serve the Lord.” Amen.

#### **14 - Intercessions [ROBERT]**

Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom, saying O Lord, your kingdom come.

O Lord, **your kingdom come.**

Eternal God, we pray for all the peoples of the world; that they may know you as the God of peace, in the use of power and in respect for each other, we pray to you,

O Lord, **your kingdom come.**

For the communities in which we live; for those who offer care and support for the homeless, for the Tea Run; that in their service you watch over their going out and their coming in, we pray to you,

O Lord, **your kingdom come.**

For nations, for leaders and governments; that integrity may mark all their dealings; and that power and service may mark the people of God, we pray to you,

O Lord, **your kingdom come.**

For all who labour for righteousness; in the face of wealth and vested interest may your presence and help give them courage, we pray to you,

O Lord, **your kingdom come.**

For communities torn by dissension and strife; that your forgiveness may bring them healing and that your teaching may bring hope of a different way, we pray to you,

O Lord, **your kingdom come.**

For the anxious, the lonely, the bereaved; that your word may bring comfort and vision and purpose; that consolation and peace may be theirs, we pray to you,

O Lord, **your kingdom come.**

For the Church, your household and family: for the Church in the Province of the West Indies; for our colleague churches of All Saints' Bearsden and St Michael and All Angels Helensburgh; within the community of St Marys for the litter pickers and gardeners and cleaning and maintenance contractors, that God's people may be firm in the confession of their hope, we pray to you,

O Lord, **your kingdom come.**

For Kevin our Bishop, and for all who bear Christ's name; in their discernment of your way of being may their lives proclaim your glory, we pray to you,

O Lord, **your kingdom come.**

For those who are separated from us by death; in our years mind Alexander Jamieson and Charlotte Britton; for those who have shown us the path of service; that theirs may be the kingdom which is unshakeable, we pray to you,

O Lord, **your kingdom come.**

Holy God, God of power and weakness, may we be servants of The Servant in our use of power and in our service of others, in the name of Christ.

**Amen.**

## Communion

### 17 - Offertory - [AUDREY]

We're so glad that you're able to be here to worship with us.

Here at St Mary's we make it a spiritual practice to go out and notice the abundance and blessings of God that are all around us in our lives. And one of the ways that we give back to God from that abundance is through financial giving. If you would like to give a gift to the Cathedral, we welcome you to visit our website [www.thecathedral.org.uk](http://www.thecathedral.org.uk), where you can find more information.

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

[AUDREY] The Lord be with you.

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

[AUDREY] Lift up your hearts.

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

[AUDREY] 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 - [AUDREY]**

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 - [AUDREY]**

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 - [BRUCE]**

God of peace, you have nourished us in this sacrament with the  
body and blood of Christ. May we who have taken holy things keep  
faith in our hearts and lives, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

**Amen.**

## **25 - Blessing - [AUDREY]**

Thank you so much for being with us this week. I pray that as you go out into the world around that you notice God in all of the places around you and that you feel God's own Holy Spirit leading you forward.

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of God's Son, Jesus Christ 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.**

## **Voluntary - [STEVEN]**

Cantique - Elgar (arr. Blair)