

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. My name is Kelvin Holdsworth and I am the Provost here.

In this week's gospel reading, Jesus asks us to render to God that which belongs to God. Whether we are worshipping in church or online, let us do exactly that, offering our time and attention and our love.

For, no matter what is happening to us, God's love is with us wherever we are

Collect for Purity - [UCHE]

Let us pray.

**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 - [GERALDINE]

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]

O God, whose image we bear and whose name we carry, yours is the world and all it contains. Recall us to our true allegiance, so that above the powers and rulers of this world you alone may claim our loyalty and love. 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

Reading: Exodus 33:12-23 - [MACKENZIE]

A reading from the Book of Exodus

Moses said to the Lord, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people'; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.' Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people." He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." And he said to him, "If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth." The Lord said to Moses, "I will do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name." Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray." And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, 'The Lord'; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But," he said, "you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live." And the Lord continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen."

For the Word of God in Scripture,
For the Word of God among us,
For the Word of God within us,
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22 – [OLIVER]

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

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?' But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.' And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?' They answered, 'The emperor's.' Then he said to them, 'Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.' When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.
Praise to Christ our Lord.

Sermon [OLIVER]

Jesus predicted an upheaval, a change in order. At the start of his ministry, he warned people, 'The kingdom of God is at hand.' It was a revolution. To many, this was welcome news. They were ready for the hoped-for Messiah to overthrow the oppressive Roman establishment and restore power to a disenfranchised people.

So, some asked this rebel leader, 'What should we do with this corrupt and tyrannical regime? Surely, we shouldn't finance it. We should refuse to participate in this racket. They've asked us to pay

taxes to underwrite our very domination.’ Government and its influences were a severe threat.

Many people today may operate from a similar place of distrust. Folk are angry, tired, and fed-up. Some say it’s time for revolutionary measures. Governments make policies for faceless herds, without regard for personal human dignity—rights set aside, and liberties ploughed over. It seems no one in power has the interest of others at heart.

So it may be no wonder that when asked to do things like wear a mask, maintain social distancing or avoid large gatherings, some see it as another element of oppression—an out-of-touch ruling-class getting it wrong. Folk ask, ‘How could a government that doesn’t seem concerned about me or the things I think are important now all of a sudden pretend to care?’

In their suspicion and anger, some refuse to cooperate with what they see as excessive rules. Non-compliance is a demonstration of independence in a system of subjugation and repression. Others do it—but only halfway, wearing a mask that dangles below the nose or choosing to attend events or gather with others whenever it suits them. It is—perhaps subconsciously—an expression of apathy. ‘I’ve done enough. This is all the cares I’ve got to give.’

Is this what righteous rebellion looks like?

I don’t think so, and I don’t think Jesus thought so either. Jesus did not answer the question posed to him about paying taxes to the Roman Empire with militant zeal, nor did he answer it with indifference. He knew his interrogators were playing a game. Instead, Jesus reminds us of what the cause worth fighting for is.

God’s kingdom incorporates all creation. It incapacitates tyranny not through destruction but with imaginative vision and compassion. In this jurisdiction, every human heart is a sign of God’s presence.

I believe in revolution. I believe in radical change, but I’m trying my best not to become radicalised. It’s easy to think—in the wake of

so much wrong and misinformation—that everyone has an ulterior motive. All kinds of people start to look like the enemy. But I’m striving not to be blinded. I’m trying to maintain a healthy level of wariness without veering toward nihilism.

But make no mistake about it: bad actors are thriving on schism and paranoia. They’re purchasing social media airtime and influence to stoke the flames of an already burning fire. In a culture of fear and disharmony, they’re hoping we’ll give up—give up on things like unity, equality, and kindness. And many are. Folk are ceasing to care—no longer listening or evaluating, because what’s the point? Don’t bother. Lose hope. Don’t even vote.

Is that a win for the kingdom? Is that a win for citizens of God’s eternal city?

Now, don’t get me wrong. We should be doubtful of what comes out of the mouths of people who’ve shown themselves to be unworthy of our trust. We should question frequently. But we must use our own eyes to see. Don’t let rebellion rob us of our common sense. Don’t let our zeal disabuse us of the notion that the health and wellbeing of everyone is important.

Someone brought a rebel leader a mask and asked, ‘What should we do with this’—a tool used to limit freedoms, a regulation set by the government without our choice. The leader asked to see the mask, and they brought it to her. Then she said to them, ‘Whom does this mask benefit?’ And someone in the crowd said, ‘Some say the wearer.’ And another said, ‘Well, some say it could benefit other people, too.’ The rebel leader paused, and held up the mask and said, ‘Give therefore to humankind the things that come from wearing a mask, and give the government a rebellion, against the things that destroy, damage and malign the human race.’

Intercessions [FRANNY]

Let us pray.

A psalmist writes - “The Lord is near to all who call upon him”.

Lord God we bring our prayers in trust that you are present to us and hear us.

We bring to you those who bear great responsibility - in the church, in government, in matters of health and well-being. Lord God, be with them and grant them wisdom as they make difficult decisions and balance conflicting demands.

Lord in your mercy - hear our prayer

We pray for the church

- for Bishop Kevin in all he is called to be and do in this coming week

- for the leaders and people of All Saints Jordanhill and the Drumchapel Ecumenical Partnership - we ask for them wisdom and grace to remember your constant and loving presence.

In the wider Anglican Communion we pray for the US based Episcopal Church and Michael Curry their Presiding Bishop. Lord God, may they know something of your wisdom and vision for healing at this time of election and huge upheaval on many fronts.

Here at St Mary's we give thanks for all those who give freely of their time and energy, helping to build and sustain community here. Thank you for the richness we have because so many care for our church life.

Lord in your mercy - hear our prayer

A psalmist writes - "why are you so full of heaviness my soul?"

Lord God we can feel angry and hopeless because there is so much suffering in the world - we think today of those affected by domestic violence and human trafficking - we ask for your healing for those who are victims and perpetrators alike. Give strength to those who work with these issues, to bring about hope and change.

Lord in your mercy - hear our prayer

The psalmist goes on to say - 'put your trust in God' - give us grace to do that day by day in these hard times. Help us to rejoice and be glad for our faith and each other.

Finally, we remember those who have lost loved ones, living with life changed forever. Be with them as they re-build and find new ways to live. And we remember especially on their Year's Mind - May Cleeland and Agnes Muir Oakley - may they rest in peace and rise in glory.

We offer these prayers in Jesus' name, Amen.

Amen.

Communion – third video

Offertory - [KELVIN]

One of the unexpected things about the gospels is you read them through from beginning to end is how much Jesus talks about money. He uses money to make people think about what they care about.

Many people care about St Mary's and the various ministries online and offline that come from this place.

If you would like to make a regular pledge or make a financial donation to support these things then please go to thecathedral.org.uk and click on MAKE A DONATION.

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:

**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 - [GERALDINE]

‘O rest in the Lord’ - Mendelssohn

O rest in the Lord, wait patiently for Him,
And He shall give thee thy heart's desires.
Commit thy way unto Him, and trust in Him,
And fret not thyself because of evil-doers.

Post Communion Prayer - [UCHE]

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.

Blessing - [KELVIN]

If you find that through watching these online services that you are becoming part of this congregation then do fill in a welcome card – you can find it on the website – thecathedral.org.uk.

When God was speaking to Moses, God said “My presence will go with you and I will give you rest”.

And as our service comes to an end this week, that's what I'm thinking about as I give the blessing. May that be something you know to be true in the next few days.

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his 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.

Music

Grand Jeu - Nivers (Suite du 3ieme Ton)
played by Steven McIntyre

*A hymn and materials for Young Church are available on the online
worship page at www.thecathedral.org.uk/worship.*