

The Gathering – first video

Welcome - [OLIVER]

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

Hello, and welcome to this service of Holy Communion. My name is Oliver Brewer-Lennon. I'm the Vice Provost of St Mary's Cathedral in Glasgow. Today, I'm celebrating this mass from my home, during this time of lockdown through the Covid-19 Pandemic. It is good to connect with you.

In today's gospel, the author records an encounter the disciples had with the risen Lord. 'Although the doors were shut,' he writes, 'Jesus came and stood among them'. Even if our doors today are shut, our eyes unable to see what others see, our hands prevented from reaching out, we pray that we may still yet experience God—a God who breaks down barriers and proclaims peace.

Confession - [KELVIN]

[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]

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

Gloria

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 - [OLIVER]

God of life,
source of all faith,
through the waters of baptism
you have raised us up in Jesus
and given us life that endures.

Day by day refine our faith,
that we who have not seen the Christ
may truly confess him as our Lord and God,
and share the blessedness of those who believe.

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.

The Ministry of the Word – second video

Gospel

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

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you

may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

[Organ improvisation]

Sermon [Sr HELENA]

The doors are locked for fear. The disciples are sheltering in place, probably alone or in small groups, anticipating some unknown future—possibly even death. The twelve are only ten tonight. Judas is dead by his own hand, and nobody knows where Thomas is.

The doors are still locked, but Jesus comes and stands among them, not a ghost but still marked by the wounds that killed him. The word spread by the myrrh-bearing women and the few men venturing out IS true. Jesus is alive and present among them, saying ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’

Doubts are erased, but questions remain even as their agitation calms. Send us? How? Where? It is still dangerous out there. But at least they are reassured...all except Thomas, who when he turns up at last is blustering and anything but calm until Jesus appears once more and offers the wounds in his resurrection body for close inspection. Thomas surrenders his fears to his Risen Lord.

The locked room and the waiting are becoming the womb of the Church that will come forth on Pentecost, but for now the disciples have what they need to open their fearful hearts and learn what they must understand to bring the news of the Resurrection to others.

Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed! We have had a Paschal mystery enacted in a way most of us could never have imagined—an Easter rather like that first one, isolated and uncertain of what happens next.

Like the Resurrection itself, the 'what next' is already happening. More and more of us are volunteering to help in this crisis, whether by keeping in touch with those who have a tough time with isolation, or, where we can, helping feed the hungry and find creative ways to supply what medical and care staff need, be that childcare or face masks.

There are always a few who hoard (only to waste) food or risk lives by ignoring common sense restrictions. Yes, they must be called to account for the common good. But so too must the Powers That Be when they ration essential supplies, and suggest that to keep the economy going is worth sacrificing the lives of minority groups, the poor, the vulnerable, those who care for them, and those who work to exhaustion and sometimes death to care for the ill and the dying.

There is no doubt that most of us will emerge from this crisis poorer in things. But we, especially as people of faith, as a Resurrection people, must not allow ourselves to emerge meaner in spirit, locked into our own wants, pulling up the ladder, Jack.

This is an unprecedented opportunity to preach the Resurrection Gospel in the face of injustice, inequity, and corruption. Just as Christ overthrew the bonds of time and death. Just as the disciples subverted the privilege of the established order.

We can truly be Christ's resurrected body in the world by demanding, as Christians and as human beings, active recognition of the infinite worth of every life, of our human responsibility, and of our universal interdependence with each other and with our planet.

We must each demand this of ourselves, of our communities, and of those in power. There must be no turning back. The

Resurrection of Christ is irrevocable, and we must rise to the challenge if we are to be genuinely his body the Church.

Intercessions – Pat Bennett

Communion – third video

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'

Sent into the world to share what we have seen and heard, let us present offerings that support the spread of this Gospel light—gifts that contribute to the works of Christ's body, the Church. Find more information about how to give online at www.thecathedral.org.uk.

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

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 him 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 [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.**

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.

Antiphon

'O Filli et Filliae'
Morven Bremner, soprano

At night the apostles met in fear;
among them came their Master dear
and said, 'My peace be with you here.' Alleluia!

When Thomas first the tidings heard,
He doubted if it were their Lord;
Until he came and spoke the word: Alleluia!

'My pierced side, O Thomas see;
Behold my hands, my feet,' said he;
'Not faithless but believing be' Alleluia!

No longer Thomas then denied;
He saw the feet, the hands, the side,
'You are my Lord and God' he cried. Alleluia!

How blest are they who have not seen,
And yet whose faith has constant been,
For they eternal life shall win: Alleluia!

Blessing - [OLIVER]

Thanks to all who have contributed to today's worship from their homes.

St John wrote that Jesus did many other signs in addition to the ones he wrote about in today's Gospel. In fact, not all of them are even written in a book. May these signs come to you—continued visions of God's love and compassion this day and in days to come.

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 among you and remain with you always.

Voluntary

Voluntary in G (VII) - William Goodwin played by Steven McIntyre on the organ of Dunblane Cathedral

Young church materials are available on the online worship page - www.thecathedral.org.uk/worship.