

# The Gathering

## 1 - Welcome - [AUDREY]

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

I want to welcome you to our service of worship for this fourth Sunday after Pentecost. I am the Reverend Canon Audrey O'Brien Stewart and it has been too long since I was here to share in worship with you! I invite you to take a moment, breathe deeply, and open your heart to the love that God desires to share with you in this service of worship. I am so glad you are here.

## 2 - Collect for Purity - [LISA]

**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

[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.**

[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]**

In the beginning, O God, your word subdued the chaos; in the fullness of time you sent Jesus, your Son, to rebuke the forces of evil and bring forth a new creation. By that same power, transform our fear into faith and awe in your saving presence. 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 4:35-41 – [DEDE]

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

**Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

When evening had come, Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let us go across to the other side.' And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great gale arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, 'Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?' He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, 'Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?' And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?'

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

### 12 - Sermon [OLIVER]

Some have called COVID-19 the 'great equaliser'. What I think they mean is that the virus doesn't care about celebrity, fortune, or status. This microorganism simply sees a person as a host. No one is immune to this novel coronavirus without a vaccine, and it has infected all kinds of people. Every person is right to worry about this disease.

What the data reveal, however, is that this virus hasn't affected everyone equally. Like every other disease that's ever been, COVID discriminates, primarily because of the world's health inequalities. The risk of death among some ethnic

groups is higher than in others. Older people have died in more significant numbers, low-income populations have seen higher infection rates, and those with pre-existing conditions face the gravest danger.

Measures to reduce the spread of the virus have not affected everyone uniformly either. COVID-19 has put women more at risk of losing their livelihood compared with men. Not everyone has been able to pivot and work from home. And at home, not every person has faced the same thing. People experience isolation differently. Home is not a place of safety for everyone. All of this, of course, assumes one has a home. While the past year and a half has been tough on many people, the lockdown has disproportionately affected vulnerable communities most. When it comes to this pandemic, we're not all in the same boat.

There is something about a boat in today's Gospel. After teaching on the shore, Jesus and his disciples left the crowd to cross to the other side. They encountered a violent windstorm on the way, and waves began to shovel water into the boat, threatening to sink it. The disciples thought for sure they were going to die. They didn't, though. Jesus calmed the waves.

How all this happened is significant. Here was a boat with several people in it—people from various places and walks of life, backgrounds, and medical histories. In this vessel, everyone is in the same predicament—each one facing mortal danger. And the notable thing is where God is. God isn't witnessing this from afar. God is with the distressed disciples in the same boat.

That's something about the Christian faith worth taking note of. It contrasts with other worldviews and teachings. The God

that Christians proclaim is not a spectator, watching from another world as people thrive or perish on the sea of life. The God we come across in Jesus Christ isn't contending with something foreign or strange. God is dealing with something personal and close.

Several people have said of this pandemic, 'We're all in this together.' Well-intentioned folk have attempted to relate to others' difficulties in a meaningful way, and that's a noble thing. But we must recognise that COVID has not levelled the playing field. Some of us have freedoms, benefits and opportunities that others do not. And some of these disparities affect how people experience this deadly disease. As much as some may want to claim solidarity with all humankind, many are going it alone right now—either as individuals or particular groups. And it can be frustrating—if not hurtful—when folk try to claim equality (or that they're close to others) when each of us is in a unique circumstance with a different storm to weather.

During the torrential downpour, the disciples asked Jesus, 'Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?' It's a question we might ask now. As we witness the poor, the disadvantaged, the marginalised, and the isolated suffer this disease differently from others with more privilege, we might wonder who cares. Today's Gospel tries to show us that God does.

God has not walked out on humankind. Right alongside us, in the same complicated circumstances, is the Lord. And perhaps that leaves us a little disconcerted. Is God asleep? Is God unfeeling? Because where our rescue comes from might surprise us. It is in the place of perishing, the sinking ship. We find our help, not from the shore—a lifeline thrown from the pier—nor another vessel. Support doesn't come from out

there. It comes from right here. No matter where or who we are, we are not on our own. God is in this boat with us.

#### **14 - Intercessions [PAT]**

Jesus, our oh-so-human brother, you know what it is to feel the press and pressure of the crowds of being the one to whom others look for support.

We pray for all who to offer hospitality, care and guidance to others: for Bishop Kevin, the churches and staff of St Oswald's, King's Park, St Ninian's, Pollokshields and the church of North India; for all who open their lives and homes to those on the margins of society; and for those who work to improve accessibility to services and resources.

Grace them with your wisdom, courage and strength as they give light, warmth, and hope to others and take them in turn to places of refuge that they too can rest and be renewed.

In your compassion, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus, our oh-so-human brother, you know what it is to be weary beyond all weariness; we commend to your knowing care all who are utterly spent in body, mind or spirit: those struggling with ill health, loss of livelihood or security, or anxieties about what the future holds; those who are drained by the demands and stresses of these current times.

Be a strong keel-curve below their backs, a gentle pillow beneath their heads, that they too may sleep for a while despite the storms which batter their boat.

In your compassion, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus, our oh-so-human brother, you know what it is to face chaos and encounter destructive forces. We pray for all whose lives have been disrupted by grief and loss: for all mourning loved ones who have died this week; for the family and friends of Jo Cox on the anniversary of her murder; for the family of Marie Graham whose

year's mind falls today; and may the souls of the departed rest in peace and rise in glory.

And we pray for all who are currently working to resist and reverse climate change with all its devastating consequences, remembering especially today those involved in local recycling and ecological projects and all preparing for the COP26 summit here in Glasgow.

Stand beside all those seeking to find a way through tempest and storm that they too can face that which threatens to overwhelm and know your voice and your presence strengthening theirs.

In your compassion, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus, our oh-so-human brother, you know what it is to live in a world of competing demands. Help us as we strive to navigate the complexities of our lives to balance rest and action to master or befriend the chaos we face that we too may live lives of hospitality and openness and continue to strive, in whatever way you have called us, for the coming of your Kingdom of peace, justice and joy.

In your compassion, **hear our prayer. Amen.**

## Communion

### 17 - Offertory - [AUDREY]

God tells us over and over in the Bible not to be afraid. One way that we show our gratitude and trust in God, even in a world that is constantly telling us to be afraid, is by sharing our financial gifts. When we share our abundance, we let go of living like we are on our own, and live each day in graceful dependence on God. You are invited to join us in the spiritual practice of sacrificial giving which enables the Cathedral to continue serving as a witness of Christ in our community and the world. Financial gifts can be made online by visiting [www.thecathedral.org.uk](http://www.thecathedral.org.uk). We thank you in advance for your generosity.

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.

**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 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 - [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.**

## **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.**

## **Music at Communion - [SHAE]**

Let your restless hearts be still  
Let your troubled minds be rested  
trust in God to lift your care  
And in caring trust in me.  
In God's house you have a place—

Were it otherwise, I would have told you;  
This I gladly go to prepare  
And make ready for you all.

Where I am and where I'll be,  
is where you shall live forever;  
and the way to where I go  
I have walked among you here.  
I'm the Way that never ends,  
I'm the Truth that never changes,  
I'm the Life that never dies  
but delights to love you all.

Melody: 'THE LARK IN THE CLEAR AIR', Irish traditional  
Words & arrangement © 1988,1996 WGRG, Iona Community

#### **24 - Post Communion Prayer - [LISA]**

Almighty God, guide and protect your people who share in this sacred mystery, and keep us always in your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

Life is short, And we haven't much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us. So be swift to love, make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God, who made us, who loves us, and who travels with us be with you now and ever more. **Amen.**

#### **Voluntary - [STEVEN]**

Fanfare - Kenneth Leighton

*Materials for Young Church are available on the online worship page at [www.thecathedral.org.uk/worship](http://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](http://www.thecathedral.org.uk)*