

The Gathering – first video

Welcome - [OLIVER]

Hello and welcome to St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow. My name is Oliver Brewer-Lennon, and I'm the Vice Provost here. It's great to join with you.

In today's Gospel, Jesus says we have to speak up—that what we've been reluctant or shy to talk about before, we should proclaim boldly, out loud, from 'the housetops', he says. Let this be our time to tell of God's Good News, to celebrate, to speak of truth, and to worship.

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.

[OLIVER] 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 - Sumsion

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]

True and faithful God, you give courage to the fearful and endurance to the martyrs. Sustain us as followers of your Son Jesus, that with boldness and conviction we may acknowledge him before the world. 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 – second video

Readings: Matthew 10:24-39 – [DAVID H]

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

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

'So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

'Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

'Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;
and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.'

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

Sermon [HELENA]

Have no fear: what is covered up will be uncovered. What is secret will become known.

Not the most reassuring words of Jesus, but right for today. The horrifying video of George Floyd's murder is a dramatic reminder of the endemic racism of human society, but there are so many others that to name all the ways we dehumanize and oppress each other is to dilute the human tragedy of each killing.

We white people who grew up privileged by our race, education or social status cannot conceive of the constant pain we inflict by our inherited assumptions and even our well-meant attempts to reach out across the chasm. We cannot redress the wrongs of our forebears, and to try to edit history by removing the monuments to our shame is simply another way of refusing to look honestly at the issue at hand. It is like saying race is an artificial construct when systemic racism makes our BAME neighbors more liable to poverty, disease, police brutality, and lynching by an astronomical factor.

The video of Floyd's slow and agonizing death under the knee of that police officer will haunt us for a time. The murderous history of Britain as well as America has surfaced in public consciousness for now, but I am old enough to have seen such horror sink below the surface of white consciousness until its next unholy resurrection.

Let me tell you a story even most of the Americans amongst us are unlikely to remember. It was back in 1955, in the American apartheid South. A cute little boy from Chicago with a grin to light up the world took a bus to Mississippi to visit relatives. While he was there, he and some other kids went into a shop to buy sweets, as children do.

But Emmett Till was black. He was falsely accused of winking at the white proprietress. The rumors grew until the shop owner and

his half-brother got their guns and kidnapped the youngster that night.

They took him out and literally beat him to an unrecognizable pulp, shot him in the head, and dumped his body in the river. His naked body was found three days later, identifiable only by a silver ring with initials scratched on it.

His mutilated body was sent back to Chicago where his mother insisted on an open coffin at the funeral. Photographs made the news and public outrage swelled, but his murderers were not convicted, and free from prosecution under double jeopardy laws they freely boasted of their exploit in an interview the following year.

Would any of us white liberals have said to Emmett's mother, 'All lives matter'? True as that is, it is a slap in the face of her grief.

Looking at the video of George Floyd's horrifying last nine minutes, and looking at the face of Emmett Till, I cannot help but feel a rage of grief. Rage that white men feel the right to kill and that black mothers' hearts must break. Incandescent anger at the policeman kneeling — *kneeling* — on the neck of a dying man pleading for his life.

Anger at the Church for having so long supported the culture of slavery, and anger that supposedly good and Godly white folks can still be surprised that there can be Black barristers, or even Black women bishops. You and I would never dream of shooting a little boy, but can we be genuine disciples of a brown-faced Palestinian Jew? And if we are, are we not bound to reclaim Jesus' message from those who have weaponized a racist, self-serving, and ultimately lethal distortion of Christian faith. What they have hidden, we are commanded to preach from the housetops.

Do not fear, Jesus says , but then he reminds us, 'Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell.' AMEN

Intercessions [TAYLOR]

Faithful God, you hear the voices of the outcast crying out in the wilderness. Hear us now as we come before you, seeking your presence in our troubled world and lives.

Lord, you come not with peace, but with a sword, for there can be no peace without justice. We pray for all those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, and who struggle for justice, throughout the world. We pray especially for all who are giving their time, energy, and resources to the worldwide Black Lives Matter protests. Sustain them with your grace in the long journey toward liberation, and disturb those of us who live in comfort to undo the injustices that benefit us.

God, you heard the prayers of Hagar in the desert and gave her water to drink. We bring before you all those who suffer famine, poverty, and disease, including the people of Yemen and all whose lives are affected by COVID-19.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for your church, that you would help us keep the fire of Pentecost alive in our hearts during these difficult times. We offer our prayers for the Church of Nigeria and the Most Rev. Henry Chukwudum Ndukuba, Metropolitan and Primate of all Nigeria and Bishop of Abuja.

We pray for Mark Strange, our Primus and Interim Bishop, and for Kevin Pearson, our Bishop-Elect. In our diocese we pray also for the churches of the Good Shepherd and Ascension, Hillington; and for Deborah Davison and Holy Trinity & St Barnabas, Paisley.

And we pray for St Mary's Cathedral, and all who have worked to sustain the life of the church during the pandemic. We ask your blessing on the school of spirituality programme, and for upcoming retreats and pilgrimages, giving thanks for all in our community who teach us to live a life of spiritual discipline and be mindful of your presence in our daily lives.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We bring before you our city of Glasgow, remembering in particular those who work in the courts and legal professions, and all who work in prisons, chaplaincies, probation, and aftercare. May they, and all of us, use what power we have with discernment and wisdom, that we may unbuild systems of retribution and help to make this community one that seeks your grace, restoration, and healing.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We name before you now, in the silence of our own hearts, the people and situations close to us in need of our prayers, including Kennedy, who is in hospital. We pray also for all who do the work of care, whether at home, in hospitals, or in the streets, that we may also remember to care for them in whatever ways we are able.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We commend to your loving care all those who have died, including Esme Matshikiza, Dominique Fells, Riah Milton, and Oluwatoyin Salau. And we remember also Mary Hutton and Muir Cameron, whose year's mind is today.

May they rest in peace **and rise in glory.**

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Communion – third video

Offertory - [OLIVER]

People assist in the life and work of this Cathedral in different ways. I join with many in making a regular financial contribution. I've set up a monthly standing order with my bank; and because I'm a UK taxpayer, I've completed a Gift Aid form.

A lot of other people have made these arrangements also, and many—in response to recent developments—have increased their giving ... because things have changed, and folk recognise this and are adapting and adjusting to new ways.

If you're taking stock of things and want to demonstrate your support and commitment to St Mary's Cathedral, perhaps you'll want to do this, too—if you haven't already—by setting up some kind of regular giving, in whatever way or amount feels right for you now.

If you've any questions about this, get in touch, using the information published in the Online Worship page.

Eucharistic Prayer - [OLIVER]

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.

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 - [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 [OLIVER]

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 at Communion

'Take up your cross, the Saviour said' (*Bourbon*), verses 1 and 2 -
[MORVEN]

Blessing & Dismissal - [OLIVER]

Thanks to all who have joined in this service today. May we all find blessing in our proclaiming, in our uncovering, in our being open.

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.

Materials for the young church are available on the online worship page at www.thecathedral.org.uk/worship.