

The Gathering

Welcome - [SISTER HELENA]

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

We all look forward the time we can gather at St Mary's for communal worship, For now, however, most of us will still be joining in online. I am Sister Helena and Sister Alison Joy and I are glad to welcome you into our home for this Celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

Collect for Purity - [ANISSA TONBERG]

**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

[SISTER AJ] 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.

[SISTER HELENA] 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.**

♪ **Kyrie - [CHRISTINE WALKER]**

*Kyrie eleison
Christe eleison
Kyrie eleison*

Collect - [SISTER HELENA]

In our hearts, O God, you have written a covenant of grace, sealed by the obedience of Jesus your Son. Raise us up with Christ, the grain fallen to earth that yields a harvest of everlasting life. Bring us to glorify your name by following faithfully where he has led. We ask this through Christ, our deliverance and hope, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Ministry of the Word

GOSPEL: John 12:20-33 - [PAM RICHMOND]

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

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it

bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

‘Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—“Father, save me from this hour”? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.’ Then a voice came from heaven, ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, ‘An angel has spoken to him.’ Jesus answered, ‘This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.’ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

♪ Organ [FRIKKI WALKER]

Dialogue sur les Grands Jeux

Sermon [JOHN RICHES]

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; if it dies, it bears much fruit.

The time of crisis, the hour, is approaching. Jesus' fame, the stories of his miracles – the raising of Lazarus – are spreading fast. People are flocking to him. Such things are a threat to authoritarian rulers. Jewish leaders fear that the huge wave of popularity could destabilise the uneasy peace with Rome ‘who will destroy both our holy place and our nation.’ ‘It is expedient that one man should die for the people’, says Caiaphas, not knowing quite what he says. ‘Not for the Jewish people alone’, says the Evangelist, ‘but to gather into one the dispersed people of God.’

And here they come in our Gospel reading: Greeks, Gentiles, ‘wanting to see Jesus’. And Jesus tells them starkly who they are

looking at: a man on the way to his death. Or as he puts it strikingly: Now is the hour when he is to be glorified, when the strange beauty of what he is will be revealed. Here in the days that follow, the divine life and love which fill him will shine out in the strangest and darkest of places.

Which brings us to our text: Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; if it dies, it bears much fruit.

The dying which is to come is not an end, a conclusion: it is an integral part of the process of transformation which leads to the unleashing of untold power and abundance. The tiny seed breaks down and from it springs untold growth and fertility. It's an image taken from the world of nature which casts light on the human world of personal, societal, international relations. If we are prepared to give of ourselves, to give ourselves, new lives will come to be, richly, surprisingly, abundantly.

It is hard for us to grasp both just how powerfully attractive Jesus' movement was in first century Palestine and how threatening it was to the essentially repressive authorities and therefore how dangerous to Jesus himself.

Here was someone who called together people from all walks of life, offered a new life of mutual support and love, an end to violence and hatred, who believed in the power of forgiveness to heal, to bring restoration and peace; and who through his conviction, his wit, his spirit paved the way to a new world, to the coming reign of God. A way blocked by fearful religious leaders and client rulers who answered only to Rome. Going back for him would be to deny all that he has promised; the way forward is dark indeed. Here we come to the heart of the gospel. It is about giving, giving what one has, one's all, for the life of the world. We can seek to build ourselves up, to accumulate, to make ourselves great (again?), to isolate ourselves, cut ourselves off, go it alone. OR we can forget ourselves, lose ourselves, our distinct selves as we become part of the creative, generative life of the world, immersing ourselves in the process of exchange, of partnership, of mutual interaction and togetherness.

There is a deep truth here which runs through life at all levels. Think of the extraordinary generosity which inspired the US after World War II to rebuild Europe including the defeated and largely destroyed Germany – and the lasting peace which it brought. What a wonderful contrast to the Allies at Versailles post World War I: squeezing the defeated Germany till the pips squeaked: with terrible consequences.

And it is as true on the deeply personal level. Forgiveness can open the way to peace and reconciliation for warring parties. Those who suffered deep wounds from their time in prisoner of war camps could find release for themselves and bring peace to their former tormentors. A very costly but deeply rewarding path to tread. The work of Helen Bamber and her Foundation with victims of torture and displacement provides many such examples.

Nor is it only in such extreme cases that the truth of the dying seed is at work. All around us over the last year people have risked all to care for the sick, the elderly, those with serious disabilities, to keep basic services going. This quiet, generous selfless dedication is a huge gift to our society which deserves our recognition and our respect. People have come together, have seen what can happen when we support each other and work together, even at great cost. Such great generosity demands a public response, a new vision of what we can become if we work together, the kind of reorientation of our public life which we have yet to see. This Passiontide, let us pray that we may see such a new vision beginning to emerge.

Intercessions [PAT]

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, 'Lord, have mercy.'

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our Bishop, Kevin, for all the clergy and people of the churches of the Good Shepherd & Ascension Hillington and Holy Trinity & St Barnabas, Paisley; and for the Church of England, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our government, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this City of Glasgow, remembering especially today for those in prison and those involved in the justice system, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the elderly and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection - for Joyce Freemantle; for Gordon Smith, Reginald Creed and Agnes Runcie whose year's mind falls at this time; and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of Mary and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To you, O Lord our God.

Communion

Offertory - [SISTER HELENA]

We offer the sacrifice of our Lord's body and blood as well as offering ourselves to God's service by our prayers, our time, and our gifts—including your financial generosity. On the Cathedral website, or through your own parish, you can find details of how you may wish to contribute to the ongoing ministry of the Church.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;
through your goodness we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made:
it will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;
through your goodness we have this wine to offer,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands;
it will become the cup of our salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

Eucharistic Prayer - [SISTER HELENA]

[SISTER HELENA] The Lord be with you.

[SISTER AJ] And also with you.

[SISTER HELENA] Lift up your hearts.

[SISTER AJ] We lift them to the Lord.

[SISTER HELENA] Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

[SISTER AJ] It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Worship and praise belong to you,
maker of light and darkness.

Your wisdom draws beauty from chaos,
brings a harvest out of sorrow
and leads the exiles home.

In Christ your Son enemies are reconciled,
debts forgiven
and strangers made welcome

Your Spirit frees us
to live as beloved children
in our Father's house.

We who by Christ's power follow the way of the Cross,
sharing the joy of his obedience,
now offer you our praise,
with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven
singing the hymn of your unending glory:

♪ SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS - [CHRISTINE WALKER]

**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 Christ in whom the world is reconciled.
Lifted on the Cross,
his suffering and forgiveness
spanned the gulf our sins had made.
Through that dark struggle

death was swallowed up in victory,
that life and light might reign.

Before he was given up to suffering and death,
recalling the night of Israel's release,
the night in which the sons of Egypt died,
your Chosen One, himself the First-Born,
freely offered his life.

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

[SISTER HELENA] The living bread is broken for the life of the world.

[SISTER AJ] Lord, unite us in this sign.

Lord's Prayer [SISTER AJ]

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 - [SISTER HELENA]

God is with us wherever we are.

As we give thanks for God's loving generosity, so God will nourish 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 - [FERGUS AND JUSTINE]

Anthem: Tree of Life and awesome mystery - melody by Marty Haugen, arranged by Frikki Walker. sung by Justine Inns and Fergus Inns, accompanied on the organ by Frikki Walker

Tree of Life and awesome mystery,
In your death we are reborn,
Though you die in all of history,
Still you rise with every morn,
Still you rise with every morn.

Seed that dies to rise in glory,
May we see ourselves in you,
If we learn to live your story
We may die to rise anew,
We may die to rise anew.

We remember truth once spoken,
Love passed on through act and word,
Every person lost and broken
Wears the body of our Lord,
Wears the body of our Lord.

Gentle Jesus, mighty Spirit,
Come inflame our hearts anew,
We may all your joy inherit
If we bear the cross with you,
If we bear the cross with you.

Christ, you lead and we shall follow,
Stumbling though our steps may be,
One with you in joy and sorrow,
We the river, you the sea,
We the river, you the sea.

Post Communion Prayer - [ANISSA TONBERG]

Merciful God, you have called us to your table and fed us with the bread of life. Draw us and all people to your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Blessing - [SISTER HELENA and SISTER AJ]

We would like to thank all of you who have joined us today, and especially those who have contributed in so many ways to make this online service possible.

Christ crucified draw you to himself, to find in him a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sins forgiven; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Abide in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

♪ Voluntary - [TBD]

[INSERT]

A hymn and materials for Young Church are available on the online worship page at 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

Image at Communion

Unknown

The Crucifixion, probably 1170s, Tempera colors, gold leaf, silver leaf, and ink on parchment

Leaf: 28.2 × 18.9 cm (11 1/8 × 7 7/16 in.), Ms. 64 (97.MG.21), fol. 86

The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, Ms. 64, fol. 86