

The Gathering

Welcome - [KELVIN]

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

Welcome to this online service for the Feast of Pentecost which comes from St Mary's Cathedral in Glasgow. My name is Kelvin Holdsworth and I am the Provost here

Pentecost is one of my favourite feast days. On this day, we remember the Holy Spirit being poured out on people from all over the world. Parthians, Medez, Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia. People from the South Side. And Bearsden. People from Castlemilk and Cappadocia. Folk from Egypt and Easterhouse alike. The gifts of the Spirit are for everyone.

So wherever you are from, you are welcome to keep the Feast with all whom God blesses. For you are one of them too.

Collect for Purity - [BECKI]

**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 - [ROSAMOND]

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's 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]

Send down, O God, upon your people the flame of your Holy Spirit, and fill with the abundance of your sevenfold gift the Church you brought forth from your Son's pierced side. May your life-giving Spirit lend fire to our words and strength to our witness. Send us forth to the nations of the world to proclaim with boldness your wondrous work of raising Christ to your right hand. 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

GOSPEL: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15 – [BETH]

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

'When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them.

'I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, "Where are you going?" But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgement: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I

am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

‘I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

Sermon [OLIVER]

When I lived in New York, I had a subway hand—a hand I’d use to hold a pole on the train, push buttons in a lift, and pick things up in a store. I’d use the other hand if I ever had to touch my face or something I didn’t want to get germs on. But as meticulous as I was with hygiene then, it’s nothing compared to how things are now. These days, I wash my hands more than ever, in addition to using hand sanitiser everywhere I go—sometimes multiple times. In fact, during this service, I’ll apply it at least twelve.

In part, we have Ignaz Semmelweis to thank for our modern concern with the cleanliness of our hands. This nineteenth-century obstetrician worked in one of Vienna’s most disreputable maternity wards. In some months, as many as a third of child birthing women died. Semmelweis wanted to know why.

Semmelweis discovered that medical students were routinely jumping from performing autopsies in the mortuary to the birthing room—without cleaning their hands. So, he implemented a programme of hygiene in between examinations and treatments. And when he got doctors to wash their hands in a chlorine lime solution, mortality rates plummeted.

Now, Semmelweis didn't know anything about microorganisms. Before the 1800s, people often attributed illnesses to unbalanced 'humours' and bad air. While Semmelweis couldn't explain why his programme had gotten results, he had correctly identified a correlation between hygiene and the spread of puerperal fever. Semmelweis' life-altering regimen of handwashing proved the world hadn't got it right about contagion and contamination.

In today's Gospel, Jesus talks about exposing erroneous views. He says a Spirit will come to 'prove the world wrong' ... wrong 'about sin and righteousness and judgment'. The Advocate sent by God will show the world that many things it has previously thought and purported to be accurate are not right. It will challenge convention and be an enemy of establishment. The Spirit of God will disturb and unsettle.

One might have thought the world would've hailed Semmelweis as a hero. His handwashing scheme saved many lives. But Semmelweis' medical colleagues didn't see it that way. They regarded him as a bureaucrat trying to tell them what to do. They thought, 'Who was he calling unclean and dirty?' Many rejected his theories, labelling him an embarrassment and a hack. In his lifetime, hardly anyone took Semmelweis seriously, and hundreds of deaths went unprevented. Seemingly, that's the way it goes when you try to tell the world it hasn't got something right.

World leaders are derided when—based on scientific data—they extend pandemic lockdowns. Public health officials urging all eligible to get the vaccine are met with delay in acceptance or refusal of vaccination, despite the availability of vaccination services. In some quarters, scientists are fighting an uphill battle, as are those who urge us toward the equitable worldwide distribution of vaccines, which remains, according to the World Health Organisation, 'the biggest threat to ending the acute stage of this pandemic and driving a global recovery.'^[1] So far, the world hasn't got it right.

Additional voices are telling us we've not gotten some other things right either. Those who stood in Pollokshields earlier this month in front of an Immigration Enforcement van opposed the UK's unfair asylum system. They were saying the world (at least this part of it) hasn't got it right. Black Lives Matter protesters speaking out against racial injustice are calling for reform to policing and an end to systemic racism. They are saying the world hasn't got it right. Climate activists are telling us that we must radically change the way we live to save this planet. They are questioning our routines and norms because the world hasn't got it right. We must change.

If we're looking for God, perhaps we should look where there is disruption. Jesus tells the disciples the Advocate is at work in this world to upset it—to shake it up. The Spirit exposes the error of this world's views. The Spirit of the Lord comes 'to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners' (Is 61.1). God turns up to disturb systems of oppression and injustice, destruction and danger. This Pentecost, flames of fire are appearing. God's Spirit is speaking. It's saying the world hasn't got it right. Not yet.

[1] <https://www.who.int/campaigns/annual-theme/year-of-health-and-care-workers-2021/vaccine-equity-declaration>

Intercessions [PAT]

God, whose Spirit moved through the primordial chaos of the beginning, resisting and repelling all that was destructive, we pray for those places in our world where chaos and terror hold sway—for the ongoing situation in the Holy Land, and all places where atrocities and acts of war are a daily occurrence. And we ask your Spirit's protection over all those who work to repel and repair the effects of chaos—especially workers in front line protection, emergency, and media services.

Into this world of beauty and brokenness, **Come Holy Spirit.**

God, whose Spirit is the energy and agent of change, bringing your Kingdom into being, we pray for all those working to make this world a juster, fairer, and kinder place where everyone can flourish and experience the fulness of life you intend. We remember

especially today all who work with supporting and enabling vulnerable people and groups, and for Matt Cavanagh in his responsibilities of overseeing this work here at St Mary's. And we ask for your Spirit's energy and wisdom in all moments of potential for change in the week ahead, and for all places and possibilities where the work of the Kingdom might be moved forward.

Into this world of beauty and brokenness, **Come Holy Spirit.**

God, whose Spirit moves through the world nourishing and nurturing, holding and healing, we pray for all who offer kindness, care and encouragement to others whose road is hard. For those in hospital and health care services, and all who work in chaplaincies of every kind making places of safety, warmth and welcome. And we ask your Spirit's comfort for all those for whom life is difficult at this time because of illness or uncertainty; and for those approaching death; and we commend to your perpetual care John Livingstone, Lily Stewart, and Esme Haigh whose year's mind falls today. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Into this world of beauty and brokenness, **Come Holy Spirit.**

God, whose spirit is the source of all inspiration, enlightenment and creativity, we pray for all those who share in her ministry of teaching, preparation for service, and prophetic word and action, giving thanks for their work and witness; and we ask for your Spirit's wisdom and energy for the Anglican Church of Melanesia, for Kevin our Bishop, Gordon Fyfe at St Bartholomew Gourock and Wilhelmina Nesbitt at St John's Greenock.

Into our world of beauty and brokenness, **Come Holy Spirit.**

God, whose Spirit was gifted by the Saviour in eternal love, we pray that She who mothered creation and enabled Incarnation will continue to form and nurture us as we stumble towards maturity; that she who led Jesus into the wilderness will stir us out of ease and safety as we follow the way of Christ; that She who transformed the disciples will grace and gift us for the task of building God's Kingdom; that She whom Jesus bequeathed will

comfort and discomfort us until justice prevails, peace reigns and love directs all.

Amen.

Communion

Offertory - [KELVIN]

God's generosity knows no bounds. When we give to the church to enable the mission of God to take place, we are behaving true to form – we are behaving in the image and likeness of God who gives and gives and gives again.

If you would like to join those of us who give regularly to ensure the ministry of this place then please do so. You'll find details of how to give on the website thecathedral.org.uk. Just click on donate to St Mary's Cathedral. And thank you.

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, 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 all your beloved children.

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 the Spirit's 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 - [JUSTINE]

In the hour of my distress,
When temptations me oppress,
And when I my sins confess,
Sweet Spirit, comfort me!

When I lie within my bed,
Sick in heart and sick in head,
And with doubts discomforted,
Sweet Spirit, comfort me!

When the house doth sigh and weep,
And the world is drown'd in sleep,
Yet mine eyes the watch do keep,
Sweet Spirit, comfort me!

Text: Robert Herrick (1591-1674)

Music: Peter Hurford (b. 1930)

Post Communion Prayer - [BECKI]

Father, may we who have received this eucharist live in the unity of
your Holy Spirit, that we may show forth his gifts to all the world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing - [KELVIN]

My thanks go to everyone who has made this service happen this week. It has been good to worship together.

It has been good to worship together in this way today.

May the Spirit, who hovered over the waters when the world was created breathe new life into you.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Voluntary - [STEVEN]

Allegro con brio (Sonata IV, i) - Mendelssohn

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.