

## The Gathering

### Welcome - [OLIVER]

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

In the Bible, we read a lot about people coming to Jesus, but sometimes Jesus came to them. In today's Gospel, Jesus is going about Galilee, finding people and shouting: 'Come with me!' May we hear that voice today calling us—an invitation to meet with God right here.

Welcome to St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow.

### Collect for Purity - [TERESA]

**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

[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 - [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.

### **Collect - [OLIVER]**

Your sovereign rule, O God, draws near to us in the person of Jesus your Son. Your word summons us to faith; your power transforms our lives. Free us to follow in Christ's footsteps, so that neither human loyalty nor earthly attachment may hold us back

from answering your call. 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

### **GOSPEL: Mark 1:14-20 – [FERGUS]**

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

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.' And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.  
**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

### **Sermon [KELVIN]**

It is always an event when it arrives.

I've been walking along the Forth and Clyde Canal for nearly a year now. Sometimes there's nothing to see. But most days something catches my eye.

And when it flies in and lands, it uses the canal like a runway. It is always an event. The eyes of the walkers and the cyclists and those who are fishing all turn and look.

A black, dark black silhouette. But glimpses of green in the wings and turquoise in the glint of its eye if you get close enough to get a good look.

A slow glide in along the long grey waterway and..

The cormorant has arrived.

And then immediately the fishing begins.

Jesus walked along by the water and saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea. And called them and said, "Come follow me and I will make you fish for people".

But what kind of fishing was he talking about.

There's a lot of life in that middle eastern scene. It is easy to imagine. The heat of the sun. The casting of the net. The abundance (I've always presumed) of the fish.

As I walk along the canal, I walk about the same speed as the cormorant as it fishes the length of the canal. It can swim underwater as fast as I can walk.

But as I walk, I pass many, many men (always men) sitting fishing.

Now, I'm told that there's some big fish in that canal. Big pike amongst other things. And I'm told that in normal time, people (no, men) come from many miles away to try to catch them.

But I've noticed that in almost a year of my almost daily walks along the canal that began with last March's lockdown, I've never seen any of the men get so much as a snifter at a fish. I've never seen a single fish landed.

I'm sure that those who enjoy fishing must find it fun but to me, it looks like a lot of damp men sitting still staring at the water.

But the Cormorant is full of life. Diving and bobbing. Eyes darting everywhere. Tumbling in the water. Coming up with fish.

I know there's fish there, I've seen them in its beak.

Jesus calling the disciples by Galilee to come fish for people is an iconic moment. It is depicted in stained glass and in paintings. It is the subject of songs taught in Sunday Schools. And through the ages, the church has in some way seen this as an archetype of evangelism.

I've listened to too many Christian speakers who have addressed me as a priest who seemed convinced that as I had to do – all that all clergy have to do is convince their congregations to be More Like Jesus on the seashore and invite their friends into the faith and all will be well. Dying congregations will explode into life if we can persuade everyone that they are all in the business of this kind of ministry, calling people away from their daily life and into the church.

“Help your congregation to answer Jesus's call and just fish for people and all will be well” they seem to say.

Which is odd really because evangelism in most churches seems to me to look more like the soggy fishermen sitting beside the canal waiting for something to happen. Waiting in a cold wet January for something that never seems to happen.

Jesus called them to fish for people but what does that fishing look like. What did he intend the life of his followers to be like.

Would it help if we thought of the invitation to come and fish for people as being more like the fishing of my cormorant than groups of men sitting in the cold?

Lively. Responsive. Agile. Darting around. Curious. Active. A glint in the eye. Full of energy.

The congregations that I see that are growing tend to be like that.

Sitting around waiting for something to happen doesn't seem to me to be the kind of fishing that Jesus was talking about.

And it is surely the same in our lives too.

For what Jesus invites us to participate in is life in all its fullness.

It is my conviction that Christians are invited to be full of life and that if the fishing feels like sitting around looking into a wet canal then maybe we've not got it quite right.

Something about Jesus on that beach was completely compelling and irresistible to Simon and Andrew. They and others followed him then. And people still follow him today.

I believe that God became known to the world in Jesus Christ. And I believe that God's involvement in this world is because God wants to bring us life in all its fullness.

And God is lively, responsive, agile, darting around, curious, active with a glint in the eye and full of energy.

That's the kind of God that the first disciples said yes to. And that's the kind of God who still calls people today.

Usually this church is full of people each week who are inspired still by Jesus. Inspired to love and serve the world and inspired to worship God together with great joy.

Our coming together is on hold at the moment but the love of God isn't. And the life that God calls us isn't on hold either.

God offers us love, and offers us life in all its fullness.

God calls us to love and bring life in all its fullness to the world.

In the name and the company and the friendship of the one who walked on a beach and said, come, follow me.

**Intercessions [TAYLOR]**

Lord, we come to you today with countless worries and distractions occupying our minds. Disturb us from our preoccupations so that we may discern your call in our lives to come and follow you, and help us to cast our burdens upon you.

We pray this morning for everyone worldwide who continues to be affected by the COVID pandemic. Be with all care and service workers, and all those involved in developing and administering the vaccine. We ask for your protection for all who are at-risk and your comfort for those who are struggling with the isolation of lockdown. Keep us all mindful of our responsibilities to each other as we continue to weather this difficult time.

We pray also for the United States of America during this time of political transition. Guide the hearts of its leaders and its people towards the justice that will make peace and healing possible.

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

We pray for your church throughout the world, remembering especially in our prayers this week the Church of Bangladesh. In our own diocese we pray for Kevin, our Bishop, as well as St Mary's, Bridge of Weir; St Fillan's, Kilmacolm; and St Mary the Virgin, Port Glasgow. We pray also for the candidates for the Episcopal Vacancy in Argyll and the Isles, and the electors who have been hearing from them.

And we bring before you our cathedral, St Mary's, and all who minister and worship here. Although we cannot worship together in person, may we seek unity in our love for you and for one another.

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

We pray for our city of Glasgow during our continued period of lockdown. Awaken us to the needs of others around us in the midst of our isolation, and help us to continue to seek new ways to build community and solidarity with one another under these difficult circumstances. We also bring before you the tourist industry in Scotland. Be with all in the sector who have faced unemployment or financial insecurity due to the pandemic, and

guide those responsible for health and safety decisions with your wisdom.

We bring before you now, in the silence of our hearts, the people and situations near to us in need of our prayers, and those whose needs are known only to you.

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

We commend to your loving and everlasting embrace those who have died recently, and ask for your comfort and peace upon all those who grieve. We remember especially in our prayers Dick Smith.

May the souls of all the departed rest in peace **and rise in glory.**

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

**Amen.**

## Communion

### Offertory - [OLIVER]

The disciples believed that what was going on with Jesus was important—so much so they gave it precedence over other things happening in their lives. This was serious stuff.

I believe faith is serious stuff, too. That's why I make a monthly pledge to this Cathedral. It's one way I rank first my commitment to being a follower of Christ.

If you'd like to learn more about making a financial contribution to the Cathedral, visit [www.thecathedral.org.uk](http://www.thecathedral.org.uk) and click 'Donate to St Mary's Cathedral'.

My thanks to all who make the Church a priority in this time.

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 - [OLIVER]**

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 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]**

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 - [MAGNUS]**

'Ubi caritas' (Paulinus of Aquileia, 796)

*Translation:*

Where charity and love are, there God is.  
The love of Christ has gathered us into one.  
Let us exult, and in Him be joyful.  
Let us fear and let us love the living God.  
And from a sincere heart let us love each other.

Where charity and love are, there God is.  
Therefore, whenever we are gathered as one:  
Lest we in mind be divided, let us beware.  
Let cease malicious quarrels, let strife give way.  
And in the midst of us be Christ our God.

Where charity and love are, there God is.  
Together also with the blessed may we see,  
Gloriously, Thy countenance, O Christ our God:  
A joy which is immense, and also approved:  
Through infinite ages of ages.

Amen.

### **Post Communion Prayer - [TERESA]**

Gracious God, our hands have taken holy things; our lives have been nourished by the body of your Son. May we who have eaten at this holy table be strengthened for service in your world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Blessing - [OLIVER]**

Jesus said he was going to make a new kind of fisherman out of Simon and Andrew—the kind that gathered people, not fish. Thanks to all who have done that today, drawing us together in worship.

Christ the Son of God gladden your hearts with the good news of his kingdom; 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]**

Prelude in C (BWV 531) - JS Bach

*A hymn and 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)*