

## The Gathering – first video

### Welcome - [OLIVER]

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

This is a place of prayer—a place that has stood as one, on this spot, for almost 150 years. But it hasn't lasted this long simply because someone built a building and stuck a sign out front. Instead, generations have had to mend and replenish, rekindle and restore this temple, decade after decade.

Today, we celebrate this Cathedral's Dedication Festival and join with our ancestors in the faith to carry on a commitment to renewal and revival—to make room for the work of God.

This is God's house, and there is space for you here.

### Collect for Purity - [MIMI]

Let us pray.

**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 - [MAGNUS]

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 - [KELVIN]**

O God, from living and chosen stones you prepare an everlasting dwelling place for your majesty. Grant that in the power of the Holy Spirit those who serve you here may always be kept within your presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **The Ministry of the Word – second video**

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 21:12-16 – [DAVID]**

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

Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold doves. He said to them, 'It is written,

"My house shall be called a house of prayer";  
but you are making it a den of robbers.'

The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he cured them. But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the amazing things that he did, and heard the children crying out in the temple, 'Hosanna to the Son of David', they became angry and said to him, 'Do you hear what these are saying?' Jesus said to them, 'Yes; have you never read,

"Out of the mouths of infants and nursing babies  
you have prepared praise for yourself"?'

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

## Sermon [KELVIN]

Just a couple of days ago there was a wedding here at St Mary's. Two people connected to the congregation, Taylor and John got married.

It wasn't exactly the wedding that they planned but they got married anyway.

And right at the beginning of the service some words were used which are often used at wedding services in the Scottish Episcopal Church.

Through the ages, people on great journeys have stopped at important places, and at decisive moments, to build cairns at the roadside to which they and others can always return.

Our life consists not only in being but also in becoming, it is a journey in which we grow and are transformed.

It isn't surprising that those words are chosen for a lot of our weddings. They seem to speak to that sense of something hugely significant happening which is also part of some kind of bigger picture – a great journey for the couple that began some time ago and will go on long after the wedding day.

Today we are marking Dedication Sunday at St Mary's. We do this every year. A time to give thanks for the building, the people and all those who have made us the congregation that we are.

More than once it has struck me that St Mary's as a church is a cairn at the roadside to which we and others can return.

We are just entering into our 150th year by the Great Western Roadside though of course we can trace our origins back through Old St Mary's in the centre of town, the many meeting places in homes and schoolhouses and the like in which members of the congregation tentatively gathered during the years of persecution, back to those who were ejected from the medieval cathedral for loyalty to Episcopacy and Jacobitism and all that, and the

centuries before that in which the Christians of this city built up a place of worship around the place in which Mungo the loved one had first preached the love of God in these parts.

This particular cairn by the roadside – the gothic building that I'm preaching in is just one of the cairns on the journey that has brought us to this place. And we don't know how many cairns will be ahead of us in the years to come.

Earlier this year the building was closed in the first, and so far, most strict, time of lockdown. Oliver and Helena and I conducted services by video from our homes with recordings coming in to us from across the city and beyond. Almost no-one had access to the building.

As lockdown eased a bit, we came back into the building and started recording services here. And there was a huge response from people to seeing the building again.

And that is not surprising. If these stones could see they would have witnessed so many of our own great moments of significance. The baptisms, the weddings, the last goodbyes that we make in funerals. The joy that people feel at festival times. If they had ears, these stones would have heard cries of praise from so many voices. Joy lingers in the air and the response from people to seeing the space again, even on video and even though we are still constrained in what we can do was significant.

If these stones could speak, they would speak of the things that have been proclaimed here through the years. The open, inclusive, welcoming love of God that we talk about. The many progressive causes that have been spoken of within these walls – progress for the world and for the church alike. And the belief that beauty and truth matter and matter not only to us but to God's world.

These physical stones piled up here make up a place of great beauty, solemnity and peace. But these stones cannot see. They cannot hear. They cannot speak.

But a church is more than lumps of rock.

People have built a physical church here which has something to do with the other stones that make up the congregation. The living stones.

Members of this congregation are at work in the world. They have eyes to see, ears to hear, voices to speak. They can act. They can feel. In them this church works and prays.

And I have a strong sense of that this year at a time when we can't gather big crowds for a Dedication Festival.

What we are dedicated to is a vision of the kingdom of God. These physical stones matter – but they matter because they relate to the living stones who are at work in the world.

Some of us are at work in the covid ward. Or in the lab doing research. Or teaching others who will teach others who will teach others. Some of us are raising families. Some of us pick up the phone for a chat with someone who needs it more than we think we do. Some of us march for justice. Some of us do what we can. Washing our hands and keeping our distance and following the government guidelines out of love for the world.

Amongst these physical stones we pray for the world. When we are outwith this building, that prayer goes on in what we think and feel and do.

God is with us here. And God is with us there.

One of the great themes that we have been speaking about during the lockdown period is that God is with us wherever we are.

As we celebrate the dedication of this place, we enter into our 150th year on this site.

This is a day for celebrating where we've come from. But we do that by being who we are.

Loved by God.

The eyes and ears and voices of God.

For God has loved us greatly.

So let us love the world in response.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

### **Intercessions [ROBERT]**

Holy God, we bring you our prayers for family and friends, for the church and for the world.

We pray for loved ones that are on our hearts today: those who celebrate and those who struggle; may each person know the comfort of your truth and strength.

We pray for all who live in fear at this time: fear of illness including from the Covid virus; fear for democracy with stories of manipulation; fear of the violence in their societies. May we each know your presence and purpose.

At St Mary's this week we celebrate the dedication of the church building as a place of worship. We pray for the life and witness of today's widespread congregation. As we hear the story of the Cleansing of the Temple, we pray that we may have the vision to be Jesus' 'house of prayer'.

We pray for the church worldwide, in particular today the congregations of Holy Trinity, Motherwell; St Andrew's, Wishaw; and for The Church in Wales.

The gospel speaks to us of challenge. The world faces climate change and the threat of extinction. We pray for those in our community who work towards transport systems that can be sustained without damage to the created world.

International events have brought news of killings in Lagos and Paris. Especially we remember those whose lives have been taken in reaction to protest. We thank you for all who speak to us of right, on the public stage and in the arena of our personal lives. We pray

for those who grieve. Today, in our Year's Mind we remember Maud McIlwraith.

May they Rest in Peace, **and Rise in Glory.**

Holy God we hear news of protest met by violence, and we hear the gospel story of your energy in Christ that leads to confrontation and crucifixion; may we be your people in the things we say and do. **Amen.**

## Communion – third video

### Offertory - [OLIVER]

Over the last six months, I know lots of people have had clear-outs of their wardrobes and cupboards. Charity shops have reported record donations. This nation's 'spring clean' has focussed attention on what people have to give. For some, it's more than they thought.

If you're evaluating what you have to offer or donate to the things you care about, consider 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 to learn more.

Thank you for all you give.

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:

**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]**

How lovely are Thy dwellings, O Lord of Hosts!  
My soul longeth, yea fainteth, for the courts of the Lord:  
My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.  
Yea, the sparrow hath found her a house,  
And the swallow a nest, where she may lay her young,  
Even Thine altars, even Thine altars,  
O Lord of Hosts, my King and my God.

O Lord God of Hosts, hear my prayer.  
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God,  
Than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.  
For a day in Thy courts is better than a thousand.

How lovely are Thy dwellings, O Lord of Hosts!  
My soul longeth, yea fainteth, for the courts of the Lord:  
My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.  
Yea, the sparrow hath found her a house,  
And the swallow a nest, where she may lay her young,  
Even Thine altars, even Thine altars,  
O Lord of Hosts, my King and my God.

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

God of our salvation, your Spirit has given us new life, and you have nourished us with holy things. May we be living members of your Son Jesus Christ and exercise the ministry to which we are called. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

## **Blessing - [OLIVER]**

My thanks to all who have hallowed this house with prayer today in all kinds of ways.

Jesus cleared space in the temple so that healing and blessing might be brought to those in need. Let us make room for blessing in our lives.

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

## **Music**

Improvisation: 'The Bishop's Fanfare' (Frikki Walker)

*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).*