

The Gathering

1 - Welcome - [KELVIN]

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

My name is Kelvin Holdsworth and I'm the Provost here. Today in our gospel reading we hear of people who are at the end of their tether meeting Jesus and imploring him to do something. As they encounter him, things change.

Welcome to St Mary's Cathedral in Glasgow where we too come to encounter Jesus Christ. As we gather together, perhaps we too shall be changed.

3 - Collect for Purity - [ALAN]

**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.**

5 - 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.

[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.**

7 - Gloria (by John Rutter) - [ROSAMOND]

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.

8 - Collect - [KELVIN]

God of the living, in whose image we have been formed with imperishable life as our destiny, dispel from your people the fear of death and awaken within us the faith that saves. Bid us rise from the death of sin to take our place in the new creation. 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

11 - GOSPEL: Mark 5:21-43 – [RUTH]

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

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered round him; and he was by the lake. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, 'My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.' So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, 'If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.' Immediately her haemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, 'Who touched my clothes?' And his disciples said to him, 'You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, "Who touched me?"' He looked all round to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.'

While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, 'Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?' But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader

of the synagogue, 'Do not fear, only believe.' He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them, 'Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.' And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, 'Talitha cum', which means, 'Little girl, get up!' And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

12 - Sermon [KELVIN]

A couple of weeks ago I was one of the people who attended the General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church. Together with others from across Scotland I was involved in debates and decisions which affect the life of the whole church. It all took place on zoom and by the end of it, it felt that we needed Jesus to heal us all from having square eyes. Zoom is hardly the ideal medium for a meeting of over a hundred people for two days but sometimes needs must.

One of the things we were asked to do this year was to contribute to the development of a new strategic vision for the Episcopal Church. And you can probably imagine the discussion. If you've ever been part of the development of a mission statement or a strategic vision or even a logo, you'll know how tricky such an operation can be. But as we laboured in our online groups, which probably generated as many words as in the whole of Mark's gospel, it struck me that Jesus didn't really have much of a vision statement. If his disciples

were his focus group, they seemed to misunderstand what he was about rather more often than they understood. And despite Jesus changing the world as a whole just as significantly as he changed the lives of individuals whom he met, he left no written record of how we should live or what we should do.

We have his parables and the stories about people he met but they were all gathered by other people and not a single word remains that he wrote himself. What people knew of Jesus at the time was not a catchy slogan. It was that he healed the sick and raised the dead. It was what he did that people talked about. Not what he wrote. Not his slogan. Not his logo. Not his mission statement. And even his precious parables and stories seem to have been largely unknown to some, like St Paul, who helped to kick start the whole Jesus movement that was to become the church.

In the first few years that I was here at St Mary's I was often asked by people from outside this place what it was like. People would meet me at events like the General Synod and say, "How is it going? What is it like?" They knew, I think, that St Mary's had become known as a congregation that was struggling. My answer was always the same. I used to say, "The blind see. The lame dance. The dead are raised". Those were the things that Jesus did and those are the things that those who worship him still do.

Some will demean that question by asking whether that means literal healings and literal raisings from the dead. That's not what that talk ever means. The questions that matter are – what are you desperate about? What feels broken? What makes you sick? What can God's love do for you? What is dead in your life that needs a spark of flame or the breath of life to bring it back to life. And the same

questions can be applied to the churches as we currently know them. What is sick that needs healing? What is dead that needs reviving?

It is clear to me that the church is going through a period of quite rapid change. Some congregations are not going to survive our times. The pandemic has hastened some things that were already happening. The congregations which are going to survive are those which do heal the sick and raise the dead. The places where the stories of God's love are still told and where those stories offer people a way of living that brings them joy, purpose, consolation in trouble and the deep peace of God that provokes and disturbs and excites us as often as it comforts and soothes us.

In today's gospel readings we hear of people who are desperate. A father with a daughter on the point of death. A woman who was at the end of her tether with the doctors trying to care for her. It is not difficult to enter into their world when we think of their desperation. The challenge of the gospel though is to enter into their world as Jesus transforms it. And to ask what it would mean for us to be transformed and turned around ourselves – individually, corporately in church congregations and in the world. For God's healing isn't merely personal. If the good news isn't about changing the world as well as personal transfiguration then I'm not sure it is good enough for me.

What is sick in the world? What needs healing? Where are people desperate? Who needs love to rule their world? Jesus came and healed the sick and raised the dead. And Jesus never called us to look back fondly on stories of him doing these things. Rather, I think the call from God is to do the same things in his name. And greater things than these.

God loves you enough. God loves the world enough. More than enough. The grace of God is all around you. The love of God is deep within you. More than enough to heal this world from all that ails it.

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

14 - Intercessions [ROBERT]

Holy God, the gospel speaks to us of your justice and healing, we bring you our prayers for the society that sustains us.

As we share in the wealth of 21st-century Britain we pray that our nation may use its riches for the service of all; we pray for those who work in international relations, who represent us on the world stage; may our society be inspired by your Spirit of healing and truth.

We pray for the Christian churches in the West End of Glasgow; for St Mary's Vestry and Vestry Secretary Liffy Grant; within our diocese we pray for Bishop Kevin, and for the churches of St Mary's, Hamilton and St Andrew's, Uddingston.

We pray for your church throughout the world, in particular for The Church of Pakistan. May we be a community that shares in the self-giving of Christ and witnesses to your healing and justice.

We call to mind family and friends, with thanks for their sustaining love. We pray for any who are troubled at this time ... We pray for those with plans and hopes ... May we and they know your riches in love, your wellbeing in life.

We pray with those who mourn the recent losses of loved ones. We remember together in our Years mind Margaret Dickson. We are glad for those who have died whose lives enriched us.

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

Holy God, giver of life, bringer of healing, source of true wealth;
may we serve you in spirit and truth.

Amen.

Communion

17 - Offertory - [KELVIN]

Being generous is one of the ways in which we get a glimpse of what it means to be made in the image of God. Making an offering connects us with the God who gives generously to us.

If you would like to join those who encounter God in this place by making an offering you will find details of how to make a financial offering on the website: thecathedral.org.uk.

And thank you for your gift.

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.

18 - Eucharistic Prayer

[KELVIN] The Lord be with you.

[FRANNY] **And also with you.**

[KELVIN] Lift up your hearts.

[FRANNY] **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

[FRANNY] **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 (by John Rutter) - [ROSAMOND]

**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 God's children 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.

19 - Breaking of the Bread - [KELVIN]

The living bread is broken for the life of the world.
Lord, unite us in this sign.

20 - 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.**

21 - 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 - [CHOIR]

We cannot measure how you heal or answer every sufferer's prayer, yet we believe your grace responds where faith and doubt unite to care. Your hands, though bloodied on the cross, survive to hold and heal and warn, to carry all through death to life and cradle children yet unborn.

The pain that will not go away, the guilt that clings from things long past, the fear of what the future holds, are present as if meant to last. But present too is love, which tends the hurt we never hoped to find, the private agonies inside, the memories that haunt the mind.

So some have come who need your help and some have come to make amends, as hands which shaped and saved the world are present in the touch of friends. Lord, let your Spirit meet us here to mend the body, mind and soul, to disentangle peace from pain, and make your broken people whole.

'We cannot measure', words by John Bell and Graham Maule, trad. Scots tune arranged by Malcolm Archer. Sung by the choir of St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, conducted by Frikki Walker, accompanied by Geoff Woollatt (organ) and Rona Macleod (Oboe)

24 - Post Communion Prayer - [ALAN]

Let us pray.

God of power, we are nourished by the riches of your grace. Raise us to new life in your Son Jesus Christ and fit us for his eternal kingdom, that all the world may call him Lord. We ask this in his name. **Amen.**

25 - Blessing - [KELVIN]

Today we've met Jesus in the stories of those who encountered him. My prayer this week is that you will encounter Jesus in the lives of those whom you encounter this week. And that they will encounter Jesus in you.

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. **Amen.**

Voluntary - [STEVEN]

Prelude in A minor (BWV 543i) - JS Bach

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