

The Gathering – first video

Welcome - [MATTHEW]

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

Hello, and welcome to this celebration of Eucharist.

I'm Matthew Little, Associate Priest at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in Glasgow.

Celebrating today is, for me, a little bittersweet; for today will be the last time, as an associate priest of the Cathedral, that I celebrate Eucharist with the community, albeit in a very different way. In a few days time I will take up my new role as Rector of the joint charge of St Andrew's Uddingston and St. Mary's Hamilton.

In the Gospel we will listen to today, we hear of welcomes and rewards; whoever welcomes Jesus, welcomes His Father and is rewarded; rewarded not with material wealth but with the wealth of the riches of grace, the blessings of the infinite love and mercy that our loving God bestows on each of us.

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.

[MATTHEW] 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 - [ROBERT]

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,
we give thanks for your great glory.
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father,
Lord Jesus Christ, only-begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
You take away the sins of the world: receive our prayer.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
have mercy on us.
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 - [MATTHEW]

All-powerful God, your incarnate Word commands our obedience and offers us true life. Make our ears attentive to the voice of your Son and our hearts generous in answering his call, that we may take up the cross with trust in his promises. 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 – second video

Readings: Matthew 10:40-42 – [OLIVER]

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

Jesus said to the twelve disciples, 'Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.'

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

Sermon [KELVIN]

Here at St Mary's we have three little words that we try to live up to. They emerged in the course of my interview when I came here.

At a crucial point in the conversation I looked around at the vestry members who were interviewing me and said, "What I think you want to be is a church that is open, inclusive and welcoming". And every face in the room lit up.

And I said, "Well, let's make that our thing then. I think we can do that together".

I've worked with a number of congregations over the years who have been trying to think about who they are. A number of them have had mission statements. I always go around the people I'm working with and ask them whether they can remember their

mission statement without looking at it and tell me what it is. Generally speaking we get bogged down very quickly.

But open, inclusive and welcoming is what we are trying to be here and most people can remember it. No doubt we often fall short of that – but that's the goal.

In the gospel this morning, we get a mission statement from Jesus. "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me."

The most interesting thing about it is that on Jesus's lips, it isn't all about trying to be welcoming to other people. Most churches think they are quite welcoming – even if an outsider or a mystery worshipper might have other ideas.

Becoming more welcoming in God's name is a worthy vocation.

But it isn't all that is going on in this gospel.

Jesus isn't that interested in making the disciples into welcoming disciples. He isn't even at this stage all that interested in getting them to devise a mission strategy. He is more interested in whether others who meet them will be welcoming.

Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.

Welcome here is a marker, an indication, a revelation of the work of God in others who are outside the group of the 12 disciples.

And when he talks about welcome, Jesus is interested in prophecy, righteousness and compassion.

Prophecy – speaking the surprising truth.

Righteousness – rejoicing in goodness in a hell-bent world

Compassion – seeing and responding to others. Giving even a cup of water to the thirsty.

Welcome for Jesus is about spotting those who are able to exercise welcome themselves and collaborating with them. Building something – a kingdom maybe, built not out of financial or political power but from other values and aspirations - prophecy, righteousness and compassion.

The idea of welcome clearly matters to us here. We put the word ‘welcome’ or ‘welcoming’ on badges, signs outside, on the website and on just about every piece of paper we ever print.

But when we push the idea of being a church here that is open, inclusive and welcoming, we’re not just doing so in order to build a congregation – though I think that emphasising those words has helped build us up numerically.

Most importantly, they help to build us up as part of what Jesus was up to. Joining with others across the ages who are trying to respond to the world through God’s eyes. Here at St Mary’s we’re part of a bigger movement lasting centuries which despite its faults and failings still tries in Jesus’ name to speak surprising truth, to rejoice in the idea of goodness itself and to exercise compassion for those in need.

I tend to think of Glasgow as being a generally welcoming city.

Glasgow is often portrayed as a city that welcomes the refugee and it is something to be proud of.

I rejoice in those members of our congregation who have sought and found refuge in this city and a spiritual home in St Mary’s.

The recent trouble in George Square from hooligans who want to challenge that tradition of welcome will not win. We are better than that.

And those media reporters who saw the Black Lives Matter protesters and the far right hooligans as opposing groups bearing moral equivalence – we are better than that too. For that kind of reporting is structural racism and must itself be opposed.

Welcome isn't a soft word.

Being a welcoming congregation doesn't mean being soft, wishy washy or passive.

Being a welcoming society means being prophetic, righteous and compassionate.

Jesus calls us to be all those things. But more than that – to look for those things in others. And then collaborate with them, whoever they are and wherever they are found, in order to build that kingdom of justice and joy where everyone finds a home.

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

Amen.

Intercessions [SISTER AJ]

Sing to the Lord the whole earth, and bless his holy name.

Lord, your love bids us welcome. By the grace of this love, give us an open heart to welcome all. We pray for the Most Rev Dr Prem Chand Singh, Moderator of the Church in North India and Bishop of Jabalpur; The Primus, Bishop Mark; Bishop Kevin; Maggie McTernan, Director of Interfaith Relations; the clergy and people of Christ Church, Lanark and St Paul and St John Monklands.

Gracious Lord, **hear our prayer.**

We pray that we may follow Jesus' way of charity and simplicity. Transform the minds and actions of world leaders to the ways of charity and justice that the hungry have food, the homeless shelter, the unemployed have the support and skills they need to find work. Break down barriers of communities that divide

communities and increase hostility. May we live in simplicity of life, protecting the earth and her diminishing resources, looking after and caring for the things we use each day, helping us to be mindful of our endless consumerism.

Gracious Lord, **hear our prayer.**

We give great thanks for those who have recovered from illness—especially Justina—and pray for those who are sick, the many who are anxious about going out from their homes after the long period of isolation from everyday life, and those who live in violent relationships. Our prayers are asked for Lesley Foster, who supports women suffering violence in the Eastern Cape and is ill. In a moment of silence, we pray for those known to us, for ourselves, our needs and anxieties, our neighbours and families.

Gracious Lord, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who have died this past night with no-one to pray with them, those whose faith is known to you alone, for all our friends and families whose year's mind has fallen during this past week, remembering Anne Casuarina Gulland.

May they rest in peace, **and rise in glory.**

In the communion with Our Lady Mary, St Mungo and all the saints, we offer these prayers and commend ourselves and one another to you, gracious Lord.

Merciful God, accept these prayers for the sake of your son Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit one God forever and ever.

Amen.

Communion – third video

Offertory - [KELVIN]

One of the things that I've learned in my faith is that whenever I approach the altar I should always bring something that I'm thankful for. And the thing that I bring this week is a sense of great thankfulness for all those who have supported St Mary's this week to enable us to maintain our mission of sharing the love of God that we have known ourselves. If you would like to join those of us who give to this place and support it financially, then you can find more information on how to do so on the cathedral website: thecathedral.org.uk. Just click on "Donate to St Mary's". And, thank you.

Eucharistic Prayer - [MATTHEW]

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.**

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 [MATTHEW]

Today we cannot each receive the bread and wine in person but God is present in this world.

As we gaze in our adoration we feed on God in our hearts and minds that we may in turn feed the world.

Music at Communion

'I heard the voice of Jesus say' [CHRISTINE & FRIKKI]

Post Communion Prayer

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious.
And his mercy endures for ever.

Holy and blessed God, as you give us the body and blood of your Son, guide us with your Holy Spirit, that we may honour you not only with our lips but also in our lives. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessing & Dismissal - [MATTHEW]

Thank you to all who give of their time and have contributed in many ways to our liturgy today.

Before the blessing I would like, for a few moments, to take the opportunity to thank the many people, too numerous to mention by name, who have supported me on my journey to this day as I prepare to move to pastures new in South Lanarkshire.

To the Clergy of the Cathedral, past and present, to Kelvin, and Cedric; to Chucks, Audrey, John, Helena and Oliver and to every one of you who form the Cathedral community, those who gather in there from week to week and who have contributed in ways you will never know to my journey.

Thank you for your support, and for your love, your care and encouragement over these last few years. I leave this community with a heavy heart but I leave too with many many happy memories and a renewed enthusiasm for my new ministry in the parishes in South Lanarkshire.

This is not goodbye. For as the late Dame Vera Lynn reminds us, 'We'll meet again!'

But now the blessing ...

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 and those whom you love, this day and always.

Amen.

Materials for the young church are available on the online worship page at www.thecathedral.org.uk/worship.