

The Gathering – first video

Organ – second of Three Versets in F Major by Domenico Zipoli

Welcome - [KELVIN]

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

My name is Kelvin holdsworth and I'm the Provost of Mary's Cathedral in Glasgow. Usually I worship with the congregation in a big gothic space but that's not possible today.

Instead I invite you to join in this service which I'm leading from my own home and which other members of the congregation will contribute to from their homes too. Today we remember a gospel reading in which Jesus goes to a home - the home of Mary and Martha who are mourning their brother Lazarus. When Jesus turns up, God is fully present with them. I invite you to reflect on that as we worship together and remember that God is with you wherever you are and whatever is happening to you.

Confession and Absolution

[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]

[OLIVER] 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 our sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen.

Kyrie

Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy

Collect - [KELVIN]

Merciful God, you showed your glory to our fallen race by sending your Son to confound the powers of death. Call us forth from sin's dark tomb. Break the bonds which hold us, that we may believe and proclaim Christ, the cause of our freedom and the source of life, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

The Ministry of the Word – second video

Gospel

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

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. The sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus

was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, ‘Let us go to Judea again.’

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Your brother will rise again.’ Martha said to him, ‘I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.’ Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’ She said to him, ‘Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.’

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, ‘The Teacher is here and is calling for you.’ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, ‘Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.’ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, ‘Where have you laid him?’ They said to him, ‘Lord, come and see.’ Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, ‘See how he loved him!’ But some of them said, ‘Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?’

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

[Pulpit improv]

Sermon [OLIVER]

There are parts of the Bible that people know, whether they're religious or not. I grew up watching American football games where fans held up placards with the Scripture reference 'John 3:16' written on them. These signs were as much a part of the sport's culture as marching bands or cheerleaders. A lot of folks know the Bible's Christmas story, whether they celebrate the holiday or not. I went to a university where the *Book of Job* was studied as literature.

There are things in the Bible that are legitimate pub quiz questions—not just specialist knowledge—and a section of today's Gospel is one of those. Today's Gospel famously contains the shortest verse in the King James Bible: 'Jesus wept.' This verse was popular among kids I grew up with, in a church that valued the memorisation of Scripture. We banded it around as the easiest one to learn by heart. (This is what passed as fun in some circles.) But the verse is famous for other reasons, too.

People use the phrase 'Jesus wept' to express frustration or disbelief; or they use it sarcastically, to show how little they care about something. You'll find it used in novels by Stephen King and Neil Gaiman and in Mark Haddon's *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. You'll have heard it in movies like the 1962 film *Lawrence of Arabia*, or in *Get Carter* starring Michael Caine, or in the four-time Academy-Award-nominated film *Notes on a Scandal*. You don't have to search long and hard to find this phrase in popular culture.

But I wonder if it's one of the many phrases we use every day, without really knowing where it comes from. Phrases like 'a wolf in sheep's clothing' (Matthew 7:15), 'a fly in the ointment'

(Ecclesiastes 10:1), and ‘give up the ghost’ (Mark 15:37) all have their origins in Scripture, just like the short phrase ‘Jesus wept’, but do folk really know what they’re saying when they say it? Because this passage says something significant. In fact, I happen to think it says one of the most important things there is to say about God.

Recently, I visited St Bavo’s Cathedral in Ghent, Belgium—there to view the celebrated altarpiece I’d always wanted to see. While there, there was something that moved me I wasn’t expecting. A statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was in a chapel to the right, just before one enters the *Adoration of the Lamb* exhibition. Maybe it was the way the light was shining on it, or perhaps it was the excitement of seeing the altarpiece, but this statue caught my attention, and I snapped this photograph.

This image has captivated me since. It appears in a variety of other guises in art. Some are bloody and gory. Some are cartooned and caricatured. And some of these types of images—like the one here—are quite entrancing. The gaze of the figure of Christ is penetrating. The viewer looks at someone looking directly at him. Jesus is pointing to the centre of his chest at his heart—strangled with a ring of thorns, with a puncture wound that won’t close, set ablaze with a burning fire.

‘When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”’ It appears this hit Jesus where it hurts. He looked at Mary and was upset, perhaps without being sure exactly why. When he saw where Lazarus had been laid for himself, he couldn’t hold it together. Jesus was overcome with emotion—perhaps feelings of sorrow mixed with worry, sadness, bewilderment and distress. (As a human, you know this emotional cocktail.) Jesus’ heart broke. And he wept.

This is the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It is a heart that beats like yours and mine. That feels like yours and mine. That yearns like yours

and mine. The Heart of God is human, and I think that's one of the most remarkable things our faith has to say.

At a time when it feels like God has left it too late, like God is in the next town or even the next universe over, when the forecast keeps changing hour by hour, when we feel like nobody's looking out for us, when we're not sure whether the kind of the weird way we've been feeling lately is, well, nothing really ... or something sinister, when we're not ready to say goodbye, and yet we have no choice, when it feels like we're dealing with all this alone, one ubiquitous phrase—in the shortest way possible—proclaims the heart of God: Jesus wept. Jesus wept with Mary, with Martha, and Jesus weeps with us.

Intercessions - Pat Bennett

Jesus our - oh so human - brother, you knew what it was to be stretched and to feel unutterably weary We pray for all those from whom these times are demanding extraordinary energy and endurance - those in front line health and support services; those working to maintain other vital infrastructures and services

In this draining time may they find sources of encouragement and hope to sustain them and discover deep wells of resilience and strength from which to draw

God in your mercy - hear our prayer

Jesus our - oh so human-brother. You knew what it was to be alone...

We pray for all for whom the necessity for distancing and isolation is particularly difficult and demanding.

In this time of containment may they find within themselves untapped reserves of resourcefulness, and discover new and rich ways of connecting with others.

God in your mercy, hear our prayer

Jesus, our - oh so human-brother, you knew what it was to experience strong emotions. We pray for all those for whom the current situation brings deep anxiety fear or despair.

In this time of turbulence may they uncover unimagined sources of calm and experience new dimensions of peace

God in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Jesus our - oh so human-brother

You knew what it was to face the advance of death unsupported and alone...

We pray for all those who must endure illness and encounter death without the presence of those whom they yearn to see, and for all those in distress because they cannot care for or accompany those whom they love on these journeys.

In these darkest of times, comfort and console them and hold them in the arms of love.

And we remember those who have died especially Gordon Smith and, at her year's mind, Alice Bain

May they rest in peace and rise in glory

God in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Jesus our - oh so human - brother you knew what it was to be faithful to the task given to you even in the midst of chaos and danger.

We pray for ourselves that in this time where many things which we took for granted have melted away, we may continue to live, love, and serve in the way which you have shown us

God in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Amen

Communion – third video

Let us with gladness present our offerings of time, talents and money to the Lord.

Usually we pass an offertory plate from hand to hand during our service. At this time we can't do that. But please, if you are able, make your offering by bank transfer details of how to do so are available on the cathedral website. Please continue to support this cathedral or the congregation that you belong to at this time.

Eucharistic Prayer

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 him thanks and praise.

Worship and praise belong to you,
maker of light and darkness.

Your wisdom draws beauty from chaos,
brings a harvest out of sorrow
and leads the exiles home.

In Christ your Son enemies are reconciled,
debts forgiven
and strangers made welcome.

Your Spirit frees us
to live as sons and daughters
in our Father's house.

We who by Christ's power
follow the way of the Cross,
sharing the joy of his obedience,
now 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 Christ in whom the world is reconciled.
Lifted on the Cross,
his suffering and forgiveness
spanned the gulf our sins had made.
Through that dark struggle
death was swallowed up in victory,
that life and light might reign.

Before he was given up to suffering and death,
recalling the night of Israel's release,
the night in which the sons of Egypt died,
your Chosen One, himself the First-Born,
freely offered his life.

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

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

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.

Blessing – [KELVIN]

My thanks go to everyone who has helped to create this service today. Materials for members of the Young Church are also available on the website. Other devotional materials are also appearing from time to time on the website.

This is a time of immense struggle and anxiety. May we bring healing to an aching world.

And may Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross and follow him.

And the blessing of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you this day and every day. Amen.

Organ Voluntary (Steven McIntyre) -

Dieterich Buxtehude - Vater unser im Himmelreich, BuxWV 219

Young church materials are available on the online worship page -
www.thecathedral.org.uk/worship