

The Gathering

Welcome - [KELVIN]

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

A warm welcome to St Mary's Cathedral in Glasgow. My name is Kelvin Holdsworth and I'm the Provost here. Today we hear in our gospel about Jesus going into the synagogue on a sabbath day and teaching there. We hear of someone shouting at him "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth".

Week by week, we gather – online at the moment, in church when we can and that question still lingers in the air – "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth".

You are welcome, right here as we try to explore what the answer to that question might be.

Collect for Purity - [BRUCE]

**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

[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]

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.**

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 - [KELVIN]

Faithful God, your Holy One, Jesus of Nazareth, spoke the truth with authority, and you confirmed his teaching by wondrous deeds. Through his healing presence, drive far from us all that is unholy, so that by word and deed we may proclaim him Messiah and Lord and bear witness to your power to heal and save.

We make this 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

GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28 – [STEWART]

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

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, Jesus entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, 'What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.' But Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be silent, and come out of him!' And the unclean spirit, throwing him into convulsions and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, 'What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.' At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

Sermon [HELENA]

What do the men of Capernaum mean when they exclaim that Jesus teaches with authority? We don't hear about the content of his homily, only that his teaching is '...not as the scribes.' He may or may not have said anything unusual; what impresses them is

how he says it, not as a dry, rote commentary or simplistic pietism. In an old phrase from my childhood, they 'sit up and take notice.'

Even the man with an unclean spirit, deep in the disquiet of his heart and mind recognizes a challenge to his present state and cries out in protest. However we interpret this scene, there is a battle between the man's affliction of mind and Jesus' invitation to healing and freedom. It isn't an easy win, such convulsive soul-conflicts never are, but the man is free of his burden and the onlookers again exclaim, 'a new teaching—and with authority!'

What is this authority? The easy, out of context, answer says Jesus is the Son of God and speaks with Divine authority, but did the congregation at Capernaum know that? No. Can only God speak with authority? No. We would be shepherd-less if that were so, but what leader does? How can we discern in our own day who speaks with authority?

There are many voices claiming leadership and authority: Too often people are swayed by lies, arrogant assumption of privilege, demagoguery. Fine words about level playing fields and opportunity for all too easily mask self-serving agendas that feed on ignorance, hatred, and exclusionary populism. We look for 'strong leaders' and are tempted to give away our freedom to them in the name of reclaiming freedoms we never lost. We find ourselves stumbling in darkness others swear is light.

We need to be able to recognize genuine authority. It would be too facile to return to that once popular slogan 'WWJD' that decorated bracelets and t-shirts. Nevertheless, looking at Jesus certainly gives us some ways to measure authority over against power.

Genuine authority requires humility. Remember, even Jesus came not to do his own will, but the will of the One who sent him. How much more do our own leaders, civic and religious need this elusive virtue! How much more do we!

Genuine authority requires truth-telling and transparency, not fudge and flannel and an eye on the popularity polls. Nor does it

flounder in a vain attempt to please everyone, ending up being helpful to no one.

Genuine authority does not shy away from acknowledging difficult reality. It can move and adapt with changing reality, seeking the greater good rather than having suddenly to jolt an ossified partisan platform that is altogether too likely to crumble under pressure, taking many with it, crushing not only the hopes of ordinary folk, but even their very lives.

Authority must, ultimately, come from an open heart, willing to sacrifice personal advantage in the pursuit of that simple, but oh so difficult, pursuit of justice and dignity for all. We followers of Christ must demand no less of ourselves and of those we choose as our leaders.

Authority requires love, as the two great commandments tell us: Love God with all your being, and love and value others as you do yourself. Not easy for anyone, but the measure of our own small authority in everything we do and are. Can it be said of any of us that our lives speak with authority? We claim the name of the One whose whole being, from his teaching to his Crucifixion and Resurrection, spoke with authority—surely we must endeavour to do likewise. God help us!

Intercessions [DEBBIE]

Let us pray.

God of hope, we pray for our world. Bring your spirit of love and reconciliation where there is conflict or misery. We pray for all who are displaced or in danger. For those in power, we pray for wisdom that their decisions may always be for the common good. Help us to play our own part in honouring humanity and all creation.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

God of fellowship, we pray for your Church. We pray especially today for the Episcopal Church of Brazil, its people and its leaders. We pray for Bishop Kevin, and for and for the Primus, Bishop Mark

Strange. And in Glasgow, we pray for the other cathedrals of our city: St Mungo's, St Andrew's and St Luke's. May all our places of worship embody your love, even beyond doors that are closed.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

God of unity, we pray for our city and community. We pray especially for those here giving and organising vaccines. Bless and strengthen all people dedicated to healing and protection for others. May we all live so that none are abandoned and all can flourish.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

God of compassion, you are with us even when we feel lost. We pray for all who are struggling at this time of isolation, loss, and unknown futures. Comfort and strengthen those who are ill, those who are exhausted and those who are afraid.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

God of eternity, bring into the peace and light of your eternal blessing those who have died, and be with those who grieve. We pray for the Aghanya family as they remember Julie's death a year ago and for Andy Winter and his family as they remember David his father who died a year ago today. We remember others whose year's mind falls at this time: Derek Lisney and Bernadine Williams.

May they rest in peace. **And rise in glory.**

All this we ask in the name of our saviour Jesus Christ

Amen.

Communion

Offertory - [KELVIN]

It is clear that Jesus was in the habit of engaging with communities who had gathering places. I've no idea how they made provision for the synagogues that he encountered. But I do know how we are making provision for this holy place to keep going at this time. Many people are generously and sacrificially giving money on a regular basis out of love for God and in solidarity with the open, inclusive and welcoming message that we proclaim here each week.

If you would like to join them, you'll find details of how to do so on the website – thecathedral.org.uk – just click on “Donate to St Mary’s Cathedral”.

And thank you.

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 - [KELVIN]

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 - [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 - [JUSTINE]

Litany to the Holy Spirit by Peter Hurford

In the hour of my distress,
When temptations me oppress,
And when I my sins confess,
 Sweet Spirit, comfort me!

When I lie within my bed,
Sick in heart and sick in head,
And with doubts discomforted,
 Sweet Spirit, comfort me!

When the house doth sigh and weep,
And the world is drown'd in sleep,
Yet mine eyes the watch do keep,
 Sweet Spirit, comfort me!

Post Communion Prayer - [BRUCE]

Eternal God, in you we find peace beyond all telling. May we who share in this heavenly banquet be instruments of your peace on earth, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing - [KELVIN]

My thanks go to everyone who has made this service happen this week.

Week by week in Epiphany we get new glimpses of who Jesus was and what he did and what he said.

My prayer for you this week is that you get a glimpse of who God is and what God is up to in your life.

Don't forget that there's an online coffee hour at 1 pm and the details for that are in the weekly email that I send out to everyone who has signed up for them at thecathedral.org.uk

But now the blessing...

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 A major (BWV 536) - JS Bach

A hymn and 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