

# The Gathering

## 1 - Welcome - [KELVIN]

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

Welcome to St Mary's Cathedral in Glasgow. I'm Kelvin Holdsworth, the Provost here.

Today we hear about what Jesus did on the Sabbath day—going to the synagogue where people who met him were amazed by the things he did. 'What deeds of power are being done by his hands!' they said. We gather too, keeping our Sabbath with Jesus. Who knows what we will see or hear.

## 3 - Collect for Purity - [BETH]

**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

[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.**

### **7 - Gloria (Tambling Holy Trinity Service) - [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.

### **8 - Collect - [KELVIN]**

God of the prophets, in every age you send the word of truth, familiar yet new, a sign of contradiction. Let us not be counted among those who lack faith, but give us the vision to see Christ in our midst and to welcome your saving word. Grant 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

### 11 - GOSPEL: Mark 6:1-13 – [SISTER AJ]

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

**Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

Jesus left that place and came to his home town, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, 'Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?' And they took offence at him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honour, except in their home town, and among their own kin, and in their own house.' And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, 'Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.' So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

### 12 - Sermon [JOHN]

He called the twelve and he gave them authority over unclean spirits.

Two questions are never far below the surface of Mark's narrative: 1. Where do all the terrible things that happen in the world come from? 2. How can we counter them, rescue people from them, find comfort, healing, peace?

The opening chapters make it clear that the answer to that second question involves a battle royal with the powers of darkness.

At Capernaum Jesus teaches and casts out an unclean spirit. What is this? A new teaching with authority – not like the scribes: he commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him!

In his home town, Nazareth, people are astounded. What to make of the wisdom which flows from him and the mighty acts that he does? Something mysterious is going on here which can break the powers and unleash a creative healing power. Yet, despite Jesus' remarkable healing power, people draw back, terrified of the unknown. Jesus withdraws and sends the twelve out into the villages to preach and to subdue the unclean spirits.

We have learnt to read the Gospels very selectively. Try reading the first six chapters of Mark's Gospel noting all the references to casting out spirits. You might be surprised, maybe shocked. You will be taken into a world very different to our own, a world which attributes disaster, sickness to the workings of alien powers. Are such beliefs and practices just the egg-shells of the world into which Jesus was born? Or do they contain pointers, however mythological, to the truths which Jesus sought to express?

Let me introduce you a dear friend who maybe has something to tell us about all this. Abie was one of a group of us who joined the congregation at St. George's when it was linked to St Mary's and for a few very special years a spirit flowed through north Maryhill which was - inspiring.

Abie's life had been very varied, growing up in the Gorbals, a period in the army, in forestry. He was a passionate sailor and

build his own ferro-cement boat. He had been received into the church by Richard Holloway in his charismatic period. Having suffered regular absences from school as a result of illness, Abie was at that point not able to read. Now he taught himself and the Bible had a special place in their living room and his life.

Abie was an active member of St. George's: he and his wife Odet ran a remarkable group for young girls. He was an unusually gifted handyman, wrestling with a very obstreperous boiler at all hours of day and night. He was kind, wise and at the St. George's all-day meetings which we held every few months in the Coach House at Balmore, Abie would gently lead us to see things we might have missed: he kept us thinking about the generosity of God, of the importance of gift and giving. He had an eye for those in need of help and a practical directness in helping. His care, for example for the couple with their young child trying to get through the winter in Bowling Dock in an 18-foot boat was deeply resourceful and long lasting.

Abie was also an exorcist. I never saw Abie in action. He worked with a number of very disturbed people who he believed were possessed by spirits and he even once claimed to have seen such spirits leaving their bodies. I knew one or two of these people slightly; one of them was subsequently much more stable and able to lead a full and fulfilling life.

I came to know about this when Abie approached me after he had been involved in exorcising. He felt soiled, contaminated by his encounter with the dark powers and wanted me to cleanse him. We met a few times: Abie would tell me something of what had occurred and then I would say the collect from Evensong: Lighten our darkness O Lord. That seemed to be what was required.

Why do I mention all this? It all came vividly to mind as I was reading our Gospel text. The strangeness, to our view the shocking nature of such practices in a much loved friend, is echoed in the stories of Jesus and his chosen followers. We may feel superior to Jesus' former neighbours in Nazareth for failing to recognise the spirit and wisdom of Jesus but then we come up with

a start when we read of his battle with the world of unclean spirits: which, indeed, led his family and friends to accuse him of being in league with Satan.

Jesus was in his belief in the spirits and his exorcisms a child of his time; Abie was from another age: people said he had a sixth sense, was 'fey'. It is rare for us to get a sense of this ancient world view. But throughout history there has been a deep-seated belief that the suffering and disorder in the world must have its roots in an alien and dark power. No other explanation will do. God cannot be held responsible; even human beings, with all their moral failings can't be responsible for all that afflicts us.

What part did such beliefs play in the life of this lovely, warm, funny, immensely practical, deeply caring, loving, man? I can only conjecture. His belief that the troubled people he sought to help were in the grip of some kind of compulsive power which was *nevertheless* subject to the power of Jesus' Spirit meant that he never lost hope for the persons themselves. The power of such compulsion can be broken as people come to know the depth and strength of God's love and those afflicted can be released and set on the road to recovery. Then the patient work of helping them to rebuild their lives, keeping journals, building up regular patterns of prayer, recognising the signs of new life and growth could begin, helping people break with their past and find new life and confidence.

Abie had experienced the deep power of the Spirit of Jesus to transform him from his own former life. However deeply beset by fear, compulsion and anxiety, addiction people might be, Abie knew that God's Spirit could deliver them from such dark powers, could release the captive, and bring renewal and healing. In Jesus' teaching about love and compassion and care for others he had found the key to building that new life. Therein lay—lies the source of hope and life.

## **14 - Intercessions [PAT]**

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, 'Lord, have mercy.'

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our Bishop, Kevin; for all the clergy and people of St Columba's Largs and St Ninian's Prestwick; and for the Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our government, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this City of Glasgow and those involved in its vaccination programme, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this Cathedral of St Mary's, for all who sing in the choir and for our organists Frikki and Stephen, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the elderly and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, for Alexander Grant whose year's mind falls at this time, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

In the communion of Mary and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

**To you, O Lord our God.**

*Silence*

## Communion

### **17 - Offertory - [KELVIN]**

Here's a deed of power we can all do!

In the past we used to rely on people giving money in cash at services on the Sabbath day. Now it is different and most offerings are given online or by bank transfer.

If you would like to exercise just such a deed of power with your own hands, you can find out how to do so on the cathedral website: [www.thecathedral.org.uk](http://www.thecathedral.org.uk). 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.**

### **18 - Eucharistic Prayer**



[KELVIN] The Lord be with you.

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

[KELVIN] Lift up your hearts.

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

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

[OLIVER] **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 (Tambling Holy Trinity Service) -  
[MAGNUS]**

**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 - [OLIVER]**

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 - [MAGNUS]**

Jesus Christ is waiting, Waiting in the streets; No one is his  
neighbour, All alone he eats. Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too.  
Make me, friend or stranger, Fit to wait on you.

Jesus Christ is raging, Raging in the streets, Where injustice  
spirals And real hope retreats. Listen, Lord Jesus, I am angry too.  
In the Kingdom's causes Let me rage with you.

Jesus Christ is healing, Healing in the streets; Curing those who  
suffer, Touching those he greets. Listen, Lord Jesus, I have pity  
too. Let my care be active, Healing just like you.

Jesus Christ is dancing, Dancing in the streets, Where each sign of hatred He, with love, defeats. Listen, Lord Jesus, I should triumph too. On suspicion's graveyard Let me dance with you.

Jesus Christ is calling, Calling in the streets, "Who will join my journey? I will guide their feet." Listen, Lord Jesus, Let my fears be few. Walk one step before me; I will follow you.

*'Jesus Christ is waiting', words by John Bell and Graham Maule, music "Noel Nouvelet" arranged by Friikki Walker. Sung by Magnus Walker, accompanied by Friikki Walker (organ)*

#### **24 - Post Communion Prayer - [BETH]**

Let us pray.

O God, may we who have shared in holy things never fail to serve you in your world, and so come to the fullness of joy, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### **25 - Blessing - [KELVIN]**

Jesus went about the villages teaching people about God. And sent out his disciples to do just the same. So, let us all do just that and take the good news we have heard into the places that we will go this week.

And 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 on Lobe den Herren - JG Walther

*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](http://www.thecathedral.org.uk)*