

## The Gathering – first video

### **Welcome - [KELVIN]**

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

A very warm welcome to this online worship from St Mary's Cathedral in Glasgow. My name is Kelvin Holdsworth and I am the Provost here. St Mary's has a particular joy today in that we welcome our new bishop, the Rt Rev Kevin Pearson. Bishop Kevin became the Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway on Wednesday this week and he will join us for the first time as our bishop in this service and will be our preacher today.

[BISHOP KEVIN]

Dear friends at the cathedral in Glasgow and throughout the diocese of Glasgow and Galloway. Thank you for inviting me to join in worship with you this morning. Elspeth and I are very sorry that we can't be with you in person and we are very aware of the tragedy that the City of Glasgow has endured so very recently. We look forward to meeting you all and visiting the cathedral and all the churches of the diocese, as soon as that is possible. This morning we are very happy to join you after the service for your virtual coffee morning.

### **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 - [MAGNUS AND FRIKKI]**

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]**

Father, Lord of heaven and earth, by whose gracious will the mysteries of the kingdom are revealed to the childlike, make us

learn from your Son humility of heart, that in shouldering his yoke we may find refreshment and rest. 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

**Reading: Matthew 11:16-19,25-30 – [DAVID]**

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

Jesus said, 'But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another,

“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;  
we wailed, and you did not mourn.”

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, “He has a demon”; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, “Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!” Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.'

At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

### **Sermon [BISHOP KEVIN PEARSON]**

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

Words from that gospel of Matthew we have just heard:

Thank you, Father because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants.

Thank you, Father because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants.

The Todd River in South Western Australia. The Todd River flows like any river all the time but for most the time the waters of the Todd river are not visible. But when the waters erupt and the river begins to go into flood, when the waters erupt the whole town leave their shops, offices, schools to go to the river bank to witness the waters flowing across the dry river bed, the community meet to witness and to celebrate the abundance of life giving water, because the whole community constantly watch the dry river bed looking for signs of life giving water.

We are all made in the image of God, God who is love and what that means is that deep, deep, deep within every human being flows a yearning to be with God in love we know, feel, share whether we are always able to recognise that face or not. By tradition that place deep, deep, deep within we call the soul, that place where my reason and my feelings and my hopes and my fears meet and sometimes erupt but always they flow because the soul is the place where I am most authentically me. When Jesus said you have hidden these things but revealed them to infants, that is not an exhortation to put aside wisdom, intelligence, it is to embrace the wonder of God's creation. To an infant the world of experience is one endless wonder. The first baptism I ever performed as a

priest of one week's experience. As I held the child a butterfly hovered over the font and she put out her hand to try and catch it, the illusive butterfly of faith. The infant saw something colourful, attractive, light, and she wanted to hold it.

What the pandemic has taught us is the truth of the Todd River. Deep, deep, deep within every human being made in the image of God is the yearning to love and to give love. We have witnessed spontaneous acts of generosity and kindness in all our communities, our streets literally have not been empty but filled with loving kindness, which erupted like the waters of the Todd river, as has the yearning in many to know something, just something of God, in recognition there is more to life - it is deeper than what we see and spend.

As I arrive in the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway it seems to me the Holy Spirit is presenting enormous opportunities to our Diocese, to our congregations and to each of us individually as disciples of Jesus.

To our Diocese the Holy Spirit is emptying, flowing, in our desire to meet on the banks of the Todd river to celebrate, God is with us. We have learnt many lessons in these months of lockdown, lessons in how much we need each other and what it is to be a community of faith. How structures and technology can help spread the Gospel of being inclusive, welcoming, how exciting faith with God actually is – we celebrate God's faithfulness to us. Jesus said today: My yoke is easy my burden is light.

The faithfulness of our congregations who meet week by week on the banks of the river to pray for their communities. Whether those communities recognise the waters of God's love flowing around in them, we meet to pray for them, with them as God is with us. Even the Bishop's Protocols for the opening of churches, the Holy

Spirit presents us with new opportunities to welcome people even if it is with masks and hand sanitiser.

As Jesus said today: come to me all who are weary, and I will give you rest.

And to each of us as individual disciples, remember the Todd River. It flows whether it is always visible or not. It erupts when someone asks you on Monday morning in the shop, why do you got to Church? Just say, because there I have an experience of the living God.

Now, whosoever, whatsoever, howsoever, you describe God, are wonderful questions – face them, as we faced the closure of our churches. We closed not in fear but in love. The Holy Spirit leads us to open, even with masks and sanitiser, not in fear but in love.

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

### **Intercessions [PAT]**

Jesus you were part of a long line sent by God to raise the prophetic voice of the Kingdom.

We pray for your church as it seeks to faithfully play its part in that same work - especially today for Bishop Kevin taking up the charge and care of our diocese; Bishop Humphrey Peters leading the United church of Pakistan; and for Matthew Little in his new post of parish priest

Jesus of challenge and change

You did not shy away from calling out what was wrong

But you tempered that with a deep understanding of humaness and a vision of a world in which all life could flourish as God intended

May those who lead your church likewise speak and act with courage lead with understanding and be faithful to the vision of the Kingdom which you have set before us.

Jesus of challenge - Hear our Prayer

Jesus you were part of a long line sent by God to confront wherever the cries of the oppressed were ignored and rule of justice and peace resisted.

We pray for the cities of this world with their historical and present realities of oppression and dispossession - especially our own city of Glasgow and all those caught up in the events of last weekend.

We pray for all working to highlight the plight of refuges and asylum seekers and those who welcome and support them and contend for their dignity and rights.

Jesus of Capernaum, of Nazareth, of Jerusalem...

You loved cities but you did not let that tame your stories about the wrongs they do.

Change our cities, and all who hold power in them, especially those of us who hold power in one hand and denial in the other.

May we repent, and lift up our eyes to that which will save us.

Because we too believe - that cities are places where God lives, and breathes.

Jesus of the city - Hear our prayer

Jesus, you were part of a long line sent by God to bring comfort to those in distress

We pray for all for whom life is currently a struggle: those who fear what awaits them; those who cannot access their usual support networks, remembering especially groups which meet at St Mary's; those who lack shelter, security, or safety

And we pray for those who have died this week and, at their year's mind for George Higginson; Beulah Ivy Mann; and Richard Williams.

Jesus of compassion and care, you longed for the best good of those you met;

And out of your own experience of struggle with fear, with weariness, with deep grief you extended your tender promise of comfort to all in need of shelter.

May all to whom you still speak these words know your presence with them, in whatever way they need this week

Jesus of compassion - Hear our Prayer

Jesus, you are part of an ongoing line sent by God to walk alongside us

We give thanks for all those who have shared their lives with us

May we in our turn faithfully accompany those you have called us to journey with

Jesus of companionship - Hear our prayer



## Communion – third video

### Offertory - [KELVIN]

In our worship we bring to God all that we have and all that we are. If you would like to make a financial offering at this altar this week, please go to the website [thecathedral.org.uk](http://thecathedral.org.uk) and click on Donate to St Mary's.

### Eucharistic Prayer - [KELVIN]

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 - [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.**

### **Communion [KELVIN]**

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 - [OLIVER]**

O bread of life, for sinners broken,  
Of God's own love his dearest token,  
We hear the words so gently spoken,  
"Do this for me in my remembrance."

For all we seek your grace sustaining;  
Your love shines through your strength is waning,  
Thus by your death our life obtaining.  
"Come unto me, you heavy laden."

Now may your life to us descending  
Enter our lives, all veils thus rending,  
Emmanuel, our joy unending.  
"I am with you, this day and ever."

Words: Timothy T'ing Fang Lew (1892-1947); translation Frank W. Price (1895-1974), alt.

Music: *Sheng En*, melody Su Tin-Lan (20th century)

### **Blessing & Dismissal - [KELVIN]**

My thanks to everyone who has contributed to the worship today.  
There's more music, a full transcript and videos for the young church on the website - [thecathedral.org.uk](http://thecathedral.org.uk).

Bishop Kevin and Elspeth will be joining the St Mary's online coffee hour.

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

*Photo of Moffat by James Johnstone. (CC BY 2.0)*