

The Gathering – first video

Welcome - [KELVIN]

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

Hello and welcome to St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow. My name is Kelvin Holdsworth and I am the Provost here.

In today's gospel Jesus says one of those things that has never been forgotten by his followers. "Wherever two or three are gathering in my name, I am there amongst them."

Today we may be in many locations but we are all indeed gathered together and as we gather, we know that promise as a reality for indeed, Jesus is amongst us.

Collect for Purity - [ROBERT]

**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 - [ROSAMOND THOMAS]

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]

Confirm, O God, in unity and truth the Church you gather in Christ. Encourage the fervent, enlighten the doubtful, and bring back the wayward. Bind us together in mutual love, that our prayer in Christ's name may be pleasing to you. 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 – second video

Reading: Exodus 12:1-14 - [KIERAN]

A reading from the Book of Exodus

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbour in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and

animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgements: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

For the Word of God in Scripture,
For the Word of God among us,
For the Word of God within in,
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20 – [OLIVER]

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

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

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

Sermon [OLIVER]

In this morning's Gospel, Jesus gives instructions to his disciples about how to deal with conflict, recommending direct communication where people speak openly and frankly with each other. Jesus tells his followers not to turn away from disagreement but to work it out by going to see one another, sharing perspectives and feelings. Be honest. Be straightforward. And don't make a public spectacle of your quarrel.

Clearly, Jesus knew about the Internet, years before its invention. For, the comments section of YouTube is one of the most disheartening quarters of humankind's dealings with one another. Online, people are the rudest they can be. They hurl insults, tear strangers to shreds, and speak in ways that defy any semblance of civility.

Some speculate this happens because of a lack of face-to-face contact. There's no exchange of body language, no tone and no eye contact. People can hide behind screen names and avatars; there's no accountability. Others point out it's no wonder folk are rude online: there are no inhibitions. Typing away on a device, it feels we're alone—no one else there but us.

Even if we've not touched a computer in the last twenty years, sworn off Facebook and declared we're not using a smartphone, there's an added barrier to social interactions in 2020: the global pandemic of Coronavirus. In the interest of public health, we've placed limitations on movement, asked people to wear face coverings and keep a measured distance. In this year, we're literally further away from each other, concealing ourselves behind actual masks.

We've moved into another chapter of human history. Conversations and connections aren't like they used to be. We can't implement the same ways of relating to each other as before. All the things we learned about interpersonal communication—from as early as our parents' arms and playground encounters—feel different. Our negotiation skills, once

aided by the interpretation of speech tones and rhythms and subtle clues seen up close, are thwarted. If we want to talk to someone, we have to be intentional. Nothing comes naturally or casually. We have to plan a meeting or construct a message.

It'd be easy to think Jesus' advice about conflict resolution is meant for another time and place. Two people can't necessarily be alone right now, several witnesses meeting from different households might violate the law, and coming to church is a whole other dilemma. The temptation is to shrink, to withdraw, to avoid dialogue and thus confrontation. Doing that, however, would betray the Gospel. Treating each other with respect, watching out for one another, sharing our perspective and inspiration is our call as followers of Jesus. We can't do these things at arm's length. This kind of work is personal, crowded and intimate.

Often—especially now—we're lured by communication that's either anonymous or indirect. I don't want to deny the value of these ways of communicating—a quick group text or Snap. It's just I wonder when it comes to the important stuff—matters of conflict and conscience—if we might not want to consider how those methods can inhibit resolution and clarity. What we say to each other can be life-altering, and how we say it matters.

The fundamental principle to Jesus' instructions seems to be directness—something person-to-person, worked out between parties. Technology and current circumstances have given us new ways to evade that—to the point where some might think it impossible, that honesty and kindness are incompatible in our age. Although that may be more difficult and although we may be inclined to avoid it, perhaps we should find a way to do it anyway.

Let us wear our mask in public, let us stay a safe distance from one another, let us not gather together as we used to—yet. But know that this isn't the way of the future, the way of living all the time. Sometimes we need to resist the detachment and disassociation that's otherwise part of our culture, and, instead,

veer toward intimacy and familiarity. Of course, that's risky. There's a price to pay for personal human relationships. Jesus experienced the cost first-hand, but it didn't rewrite the story; it didn't change the commandment. The Christian faith is one of relationship with God connected by a person, with direct contact and concern. We should remember that, and imitate a divine closeness that heals and, in the end, makes us stronger.

Intercessions [SISTER AJ]

Today our prayers for all who are called to a vocation of prayer and intercession.

We offer our prayers for all Bishops, Priests and deacons in their vocation of prayer for each soul given to their care.

We pray for the Anglican Church in South Africa and their Primate The Most Revd Thabo Makgoba. For Mark our Primus, Kevin our Bishop, and the priests and people of St John the Evangelist, Annan; St John the Evangelist, Eastriggs: All Saints, Gretna; All Saints, Lockerbie; St John the Evangelist, Moffat. We pray for all who lead intercessions in our churches.

Silence

We pray for all Chaplains in Government, Armed Forces, and chaplaincies in the police, prisons, schools, and any kind of outreach. May their prayers help and guide them all in making the best choices for government, justice, and peace. Prayers for the support of those working in difficult situations with the homeless, asylum seekers, refugees, the poor, and the abused.

Silence

We pray for Chaplains in their ministry of prayer and comfort for the sick, in body, mind, and soul. May they know the prayers of those who pray for them to be a sign of God's presence to those with whom they pray.

Silence

We pray for the vocation of those in religious life called to intercessory and contemplative prayer for the world, giving thanks and expressing the sorrows of the world in their daily commitment to prayer. We give thanks for those who are called to the vocation of spiritual direction. Seeking to hear God's word we pray for them as they pray for themselves and those they direct.

Silence

We pray for those who pray with and for the dying and the deceased. May their prayers be a comfort to those who mourn. We also pray for those who have died alone with no one to pray with them and those whose faith is known to you alone.

We offer our prayers for Margaret Turner whose funeral will be on Tuesday 8th September and pray for her family and friends. And on his Years Mind for Aaron Paterson Lennox.

May they Rest in Peace, and Rise in Glory.

We offer these prayers through Jesus Christ, and with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Mungo, and all the saints and angels both here and in heaven. We thank you for all who pray for us and help us to pray for them. **Amen.**

Communion – third video

Offertory - [KELVIN]

One of the ways that we can remain connected to one another is by joining together to enable the ministry of God's church.

If you would like to make a regular pledge or make a financial donation to support the open inclusive and welcoming ministry that we are trying to build here, please go to thecathedral.org.uk and click on MAKE A DONATION.

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:

**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]

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 - [GERALDINE]

Ubi Caritas – Simon Lole

Where charity and love are, there God is.

The love of Christ has gathered us into one.

Let us exult, and in him be joyful.

Let us fear and let us love the living God.

And from a sincere heart let us love each other (and Him).

Post Communion Prayer - [ROBERT]

Father, your word and sacrament give us food and life.

May we who have shared in holy things

bear fruit to your honour and glory,

in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

Amen.

Blessing - [KELVIN]

My thanks go to all who make the worship of the church possible.

It has been good to worship together today.

If you have been joining in with this worship online and are finding a way into the congregation then please fill in a welcome card. You can find it on the cathedral website – thecathedral.org.uk

But now the blessing:

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus 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.**

A hymn and materials for Young Church are available on the online worship page at www.thecathedral.org.uk/worship.