

The Gathering

1 - Welcome - [KELVIN]

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

The world's eyes are on Glasgow at this time. Leaders and activists from all over the world are gathered in this city. Others are joining them from afar. There is work to be done to find solutions to Climate Change.

In this same city, today we pray for all involved. For justice, for change, for hope. Today we pray for courage for our leaders that they can implement fairer solutions for the poorest and the most vulnerable. Today we pray for wisdom and compassion. And today we pray, remembering the glories and the frailties of the created world.

Welcome to St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow.

3 - Collect for Purity - [KATE]

**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 - [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.

8 - Collect - [KELVIN]

God of creation, who loves all that is made and all that has evolved, open the eyes of your people, that your love might be reflected in our care for the planet and for our neighbour.

Through Jesus Christ, the saviour of the world who is alive with you In the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Ministry of the Word

11 - GOSPEL: Matthew 6.25-34 – [ABHA]

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

Jesus said, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

‘So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

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

12 - Sermon [JOHN]

Strive first for the Kingdom of God and all these things will be added to you.

The great COP show has come to town. The leaders of the world, plus or minus, have flown in and now, behind closed doors, the trading begins. How much can we give? How much of our expenditure on energy, of our carbon usage can we hold on to, what alternatives can we find? How can China, Russia, India feed their millions? How can the North hold on to its, unequally shared, high, super-luxurious style of living? As Jesus would say, after all these things the nations strive; as indeed they do.

This COP was not meant to be like this: the rich and powerful haggling over the concessions they could make. We were told, (2 years ago) that it would focus on the needs, the trials of the global south; it would be seeking ways to help those whose lives are already being disrupted, torn up by flood and drought, the disruption of the seasonal patterns which have sustained their agriculture. A disruption and destruction which is the fruit of our great Industrial Revolution, in which Glasgow was indeed a major player and from which it has both profited and suffered in spectacular ways. Has anyone noticed the irony/appropriateness of holding this COP on the banks of the Clyde, which made, not just Glasgow, but in large measure our modern, industrial, post-industrial world?

Here, with immense ingenuity and creativity – and with all its ruthless exploitation of labour, at home and in the plantations in the Caribbean and the American South, Glasgow rose to be the Second City of the Empire, the engine of progress and development, whose costs we are now beginning to realise, if not to face up to.

Confronted as we are with the growing turmoil and the long-term threats to our planet, the first fruits of which are already driving people out of their parched lands in Africa to storm our defences in the Channel, what does our Gospel passage have to say to us? Don't worry? Leave it all to God? Why do the nations make such a fuss?

Let me suggest: I think this passage of the Sermon on the Mount works on three levels. Yes, powerfully, wonderfully phrased: - consider the lilies – Jesus reminds his listeners of the beauty, the fecundity, the abundance and extravagance of God's creation. Not even Solomon was arrayed like one of these. What extraordinary delicacy, power, variety, diversity, there is, still, in this amazing planet! It is there to cherish, to stand in awe of, to sustain and nourish us – if we will work with it.

But again: we need to change our mind-set, to escape from the mind-trap which when we come together to address the deep needs and problems of our world, takes over and turns our plans for listening to the poor into a battle to preserve the wealth and privileges of the rich, caring, as Jesus puts it ,for the body rather than for life. We need, as Martin Creed, the Glasgow Turner prize winner put it, to find a mind-trap map: a way out of this fatal bind. And the richness, the beauty, the abundance of OUR world, the world of which we are a part and not something separate, over and above it, reminds us that there is more to life than food and drink and clothing.

And so we are prepared for the real thrust of this passage. Seek first the Kingdom of God and its righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. The concern for justice: if you have two coats, give one to those who have none; if you have food, likewise, has got to be our starting point: those who planned COP26 were right, the place to start was, would have been by listening to the voices of the poor., of those of the Global South whose poverty and hunger is, to say the very least, exacerbated by our ruthless exploitation of the world on a post-industrial, globalised scale, regardless of the consequences.

What if we were to start there? What if we were to listen to the voices of those in Africa, South-East Asia, who struggle to grow enough to feed their families, to clothe and school them? Whose efforts in tilling, and tending their crops are regularly frustrated by floods, sweeping away the seed just planted, flattening the growing crops; by prolonged periods of drought, stunting growth and development, burning up the young crops? What indeed if we were to listen to their ideas for working their way out of this dilemma, partner with them, share resources, skills and smart technologies? Instead we have, for years now, cut back on agricultural development aid, attempted to impose methods of intensive farming on them which have already contributed massively to climate chaos and would drive many smallholder farmers from their land.

There's a message here for us which is stark and simple. There is no solution to climate change which does not embrace climate justice. AND - consider the lilies – if we do not work with nature, in all its diversity, to help it thrive and flourish, it will destroy us, as it is already destroying those least guilty of its exploitation. But there is a message of hope: if we seek God's Kingdom, embrace righteousness, climate justice, justice for all God's creatures, great and small, from the North and from the South, then 'all these things will be added to us.' It is not too late.

14 - Intercessions [PAT]

Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom, saying

O Lord, your kingdom come.

Eternal God, we pray for all the peoples of the world;

That they may know you as the God of peace, we pray to you,

O Lord, your kingdom come.

For the communities in which we live; for all in this city of Glasgow as it hosts COP26; those opening their homes; or facilitating events; those providing essential support services; and those

responsible for the security and safety of all, that you watch over their going out and their coming in, we pray to you,

O Lord, your kingdom come.

For nations, for leaders and governments; particularly those gathered here in Glasgow to discuss. plan and support responses to the climate emergency, that integrity may mark all their dealings, we pray to you,

O Lord, your kingdom come.

For all who labour for righteousness; especially delegates to COP26 giving voice to those most affected by global warming, that your presence and help may give them courage, we pray to you,

O Lord, your kingdom come.

For communities torn by dissension and strife; particularly where ideological differences exacerbate inequalities and suffering or foment fear and hate, that your forgiveness may bring them healing, we pray to you,

O Lord, your kingdom come.

For the anxious, the lonely, the bereaved, that consolation and peace may be theirs, we pray to you,

O Lord, your kingdom come.

For the Church, your household and family; remembering especially today the Anglican Church in New Zealand and Polynesia; the clergy and congregations of All Saints, Challoch, with the Whithorn Fellowship & St Margaret's New Galloway; for the Anglican delegates here at COP26 and, in our Cathedral for the contact group and those they serve, and all caring for relatives, friends and neighbour, that your people may be firm in the confession of their hope, we pray to you,

O Lord, your kingdom come.

For Kevin our Bishop and for all who bear Christ's name, that their lives may proclaim your glory, we pray to you,

O Lord, your kingdom come.

For those who are separated from us by death; all who have died this week and Robert Willis whose year's mind falls today, that theirs may be the kingdom which is unshakeable, we pray to you,

O Lord, your kingdom come.

And for ourselves, that our lives may reflect your love and care for the whole of creation, and always work for its healing and restoration, we pray to you

O Lord your kingdom come.

Amen.

Communion

17 - Offertory - [KELVIN]

If you are taking part in this service online, please take part in sharing with others the responsibility for making it happen.

If you would like to make an offering to St Mary's, please go to the website thecathedral.org.uk where there's details of different ways of giving. Just click on the words "donate to St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow"

And thank you for your offering this week.

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, O God, Creator of all things visible and invisible, Source of life and immortality, whom the heavens praise, the sun and moon and all the stars, the earth, the sea and all that is in them, in every place and at all times.

By your holy Word you brought order out of chaos, you divided light from darkness, created the heavens and established the earth; you divided the sea from the dry land, and caused all life to come into being.

In Christ your holy Word became flesh, took our human form, lived among us, and, through dying on the cross, overcame sin and death, that your creation might be restored in him.

Through your life-giving Holy Spirit who first moved over the waters, you renew your creation, call us to new birth, in a world restored by love.

As children of your redeeming purpose, with all your creatures throughout space and time we offer you our praise, together 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, God our creator, for the gift of your Son born in human flesh. Christ is your holy Wisdom, existing beyond time, present at creation. Through Christ you revealed yourself in the world, and bring your saving work to its completion.

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.

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.

24 - Post Communion Prayer - [TERESA]

Living God, in the eucharist you fill us with new hope. May the power of your love, which we have known in word and sacrament, continue your saving work among us, and bring us to the joy you promise. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

25 - Blessing - [KELVIN]

Thank you for sharing in the worship today.

We must pray that the work being done at COP26 is a blessing to the world, a blessing that starts with each one of us.

May God the creator, who is the source of goodness and growth, pour his blessing upon all things created, and upon you his beloved, that you may work with God for the welfare of all creatures; and the blessing of God the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit be with you this day and every day. Amen.

26 - Dismissal - [OLIVER]

Tend the earth, care for God's good creation, and bring forth the fruits of righteousness. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Voluntary - [STEVEN]

Trio Sonata VI (mvmnt i) - JS Bach