

# The Gathering

## 1 - Welcome - [OLIVER]

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

Welcome to St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow.

Jesus talks about a miracle food source in today's gospel—a type of meal that means folk will never be hungry again. He says it's something we discover when we draw close to him. So, let us find nourishment in this place as we come to be fed with things from heaven.

## 3 - Collect for Purity - [Marion]

**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

[KELVIN] 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.**

[OLIVER] 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 (Walker) - [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 - [OLIVER]**

God our Father and provider, whose Son has given his flesh for the life of the world, sustain your pilgrim Church on its journey with the word of life and the bread of heaven. Draw us nearer to him in whose name we gather, that, following his way of sacrificial love,

we may come to the banquet of eternal life. 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 6:14-29 – [LISA]

Alleluia. Alleluia

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

#### **Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, 'I am the bread that came down from heaven.' They were saying, 'Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, "I have come down from heaven"?' Jesus answered them, 'Do not complain among yourselves. No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, "And they shall all be taught by God." Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious gospel

**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

### 12 - Sermon [KELVIN]

Things are coming back. Not back to normal, but we are finding new ways of doing things that we used to do. (And finding some new things to do too).

One of the things that used to happen here at St Mary's was a rather quirky feature of our common life – a badge stall which sat at the back of the church.

We've sold thousands of badges since the day I declared to the surprise of everyone in the church office that what this church needed was a badge machine.

The badges have proved to be great conversation starters. When they were sitting at the back of the church they helped to establish the ethos of the church.

It was a bit of fun on the one hand. But those badges came to be used as wee campaigning tools for things we have believed in. People wanted a badge that said, "Refugees Welcome" to wear around town when it seemed that the government was saying the opposite. And badges were made and worn proudly during the equal marriage campaigns.

One of the things that I realised when making these badges was that there was a lot of identity tied up in them.

When someone came to browse the stall, I'd ask them – "Now, who are you? What's your badge?"

And there were all kinds of identity markers which always sold well.

So many badges...

Soprano. Godparent. Some people are gay get over it. Scottish Episcopalian. Meek – part time. Fashion police. Feminist. Husband material. Jumps in puddle. These are my pronouns. I belong to Glasgow. I love spouts.

I realised when coming up with these badges how much of a thing identity is.

We are beset by what they call identity politics. But that builds on the search for primary identity that is a very real part of many people's lives as they live and grow.

The quest to find oneself is part of the narrative of 21st century living. And it can be a source of personal pain or a way in which we can thrive.

I am what I am, I am my own special creation isn't just a gay anthem, it is the spirit of the age.

Now, making bold claims about your identity isn't something that is new. Nor is controversy following such claims.

Jesus made a number of claims about identity that the writer of the fourth gospel records. These are the famous – I AM sayings.

I am the way, the truth, the life.

I am the Good shepherd.

And so on.

And today, we have one of those identity sayings. Jesus making a claim about his core identity.

I am the bread of life he says.

And immediately, people start bickering about it.

The claim that he makes is a bold one. I am the bread of life and whoever comes to me will never be hungry.

I think that the world is full of people nowadays who are proving that you don't need to engage with religion or church or a saviour or indeed Jesus in order to live.

But I'm not convinced that spiritual hunger has gone away.

I am the bread of life, come to me and you will never be hungry he says.

It is an audacious, almost ridiculous claim. For people will surely still get hungry.

And yet.

Many have found that life lived in response to the claims of Jesus is different to life lived without them.

I don't think that Christians are claiming that you can't live without Jesus in your life.

But I do think that we do make a bold claim that life is different when Jesus is part of it.

Life is tastier, more colourful, and it has more purpose with Jesus around than life lived without him.

One of the odd things about lockdown was how people felt about bread.

When people were panic buying in the supermarkets, bread was one of the top things that they were taking home. (Under the piles of toilet rolls in their bags).

Then there were the sudden crazes for banana bread and dough-dough recipes.

Somehow in the middle of the strangest of years people started cooking bread again – and of course there was a run on flour which couldn't be had for love or money.

That desire for bread wasn't just hunger – most of us had enough to eat during lockdown. It was deeper than just wanting to fill our bellies.

Bread, especially fresh bread became an iconic emblematic representation of whether we were OK or not.

Jesus didn't just claim to be the bread. He claimed to be the bread of life.

When Jesus claims to be the bread of life, bread that will prevent us ever being hungry again, he isn't just talking about filling our bellies. He is talking about filling our very souls with good things.

Filling us up with stories that will inspire us, filling us up with demands that we think about others more than ourselves which will challenge us and filling us up with love from the very depth of God's being that will overflow and touch those who are around us.

It is that inspiration, challenge and love that will ultimately satisfy the spiritual hunger that is part of being human.

I am, who I am, Jesus says.

Bread for the journey.

Bread to nourish you.

The very bread of life.

In the name of the father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

#### **14 - Intercessions [Robert Mawditt]**

I ask your prayers for peace in the life of the world especially today for the countries of Belarus, Ukraine and Russia.

Pray for God's peace. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for all who suffer injury, sickness and loss those known to us ...and those we hear whose lives are afflicted by the effects of industry ...

Pray for all who are afflicted. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for all who wield authority and influence; for the challenges to our world of climate change and unequal provision of food and medicine.

Pray for all who exercise power. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for all whom we have wronged; for those held in our memories, and any of whom we are not mindful.

Pray for all who hate us. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for our bishop Kevin; for The Church of South India;

for the people of St Mary's, Gatehouse of Fleet and St Francis of Assisi (Greyfriars), Kirkcudbright; for The Friends of St Mary's, former members of the congregation and former clergy; and for all whom Christ has appointed to his service.

Pray for God's people. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for those who work in Glasgow's voluntary sector; for those who serve the needs of their neighbours. *Silence*

Give thanks to God for all in whom Christ has been honoured, for those whose memory we cherish, and in our Years' mind Thomas Kilkie and Adam Curtis. *Silence*

We bring you our prayers in the name of Jesus the bread of life.

Amen

## Communion

### 17 - Offertory - [OLIVER]

Jesus said that encounters with him reveal the heart of God. Every time we gather in ways like this, we partake in a meal designed to nourish us with food for our life's journey. This cathedral is a refuelling station of sorts, offering refreshment to those who seek. To make a financial contribution that sets this table to do that week after week, visit [www.thecathedral.org.uk](http://www.thecathedral.org.uk) and click DONATE TO ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL.

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**

[OLIVER] The Lord be with you.

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

[OLIVER] Lift up your hearts.

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

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

[KELVIN] **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 (WALKER) - [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 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 - [OLIVER]**

The living bread is broken for the life of the world.

**Lord, unite us in this sign.**

**20 - 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.**

**21 - Communion - [OLIVER]**

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 - Author of Life Divine - Sung by Magnus Walker*

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

Eternal God, grant to your Church the unity and peace that we have tasted in this eucharist, the fruit of your life-giving Spirit. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen**

#### **25 - Blessing - [OLIVER]**

The coming week will offer a lot of food for thought. Some of it will nourish and some will not. May this meal we have shared together—the words, the music, and the prayer—continue to sustain and teach us wherever we go.

Thank you to all who have served at this table.

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 in A major (BWV 536) - JS Bach*

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