

## 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. My name is Kelvin Holdsworth and I'm the Provost here. This week in our worship we hear a gospel story all about the difference between the wise and the foolish. And about being ready and waiting for a bridegroom when he turns up for a wedding.

There's always a sense of expectation here at St Mary's. This is a place where God turns up. Right now, let us prepare to meet with God this day.

### Collect for Purity - [LIAM]

Let us pray.

**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 - [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.

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

Brighten your Church, O God,

with the promise of your kingdom  
and waken our hearts to its light.  
Bid us hasten with faith undimmed  
to greet the bridegroom's return  
and to enter the wedding feast.

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

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 25.1-13 – [MARION & HOUSEHOLD]**

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

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

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

### **Sermon [OLIVER]**

By now, for many of us, things have had a chance to sink in. What we might have thought was a temporary inconvenience has become more permanent. What was a bad dream has become a lifestyle. Some will be angry. Some will be sad. Some will be anxious. Some will convince themselves this isn't so bad. We'll all have ways of understanding this situation and coping with it.

At first, my strategy was to put things on hold. I shifted my appointments and regular activities. 'This is only a momentary setback,' I thought, 'a temporary pause of life that soon would return to normal.' Those deferred deadlines, however, soon began to approach.

So, I found measures that would hold things together in the meantime, while I waited. I cobbled together ways to 'hack it'. It wasn't ideal, but it was something. However, as time moved on, some of those temporary solutions started to crack. My interim fixes would only hold for so long.

Consequently, I moved on to a 'making do' phase, finding ways of enduring a short-term inconvenience. 'Okay,' I told myself, 'this isn't great, but I'll put up with it for now.' It was the equivalent of holding one's breath while walking through a burning building. But there was only so long I could hold my breath.

Then, it was time for denial. I began ignoring the present mess, plying myself with dreams of the future. I put myself in a kind of holding pattern, feeding on the memories of the way things were, which I hoped would be again soon. (Does any of this sound familiar to you?)

As time's gone on, I've realised I'm growing tired of holding it together. I'm running out of fuel to keep up this charade. Too much has been on pause for too long. I'm starting to wonder how much longer the floodgates will hold. How much longer can I wait?

Today's Gospel talks about waiting. Ten bridesmaids were waiting for a delayed bridegroom. The story divides them into two groups—some who were wise and others who were foolish. Both

brought lamps for a journey, but only one (the wise) brought oil for them. As I thought about this parable this week, I wondered about my journey of 2020. What had I brought with me to survive this wait? Was I carrying a torch? Or, was I just carrying an empty container?

I suspect a lot of us have been carrying something not fit for purpose over the last few months. It's the container we think we need for the events we've planned for, the things we hoped for. But things aren't the same; they're not as we expected. There's no fuel to pick up when we get to our destination. Our lamp doesn't work as it did before. Things aren't coming back the way we expected.

And yet, here we are: waiting. And it will be a longer wait still—a time without typical accommodations and resources, a time when we'll have to be on our own for a while, a time of uncertainty.

Fortunately, unlike the bridesmaids with no oil, it's not too late to do something—at least not yet. There's still time to go home or to the store to get some fuel. Even though things aren't as we expected, even though we don't know when things will change, we have an opportunity to live differently.

Many of us came into this pandemic preparing for the short term. I don't think we were foolish necessarily. I guess we were working with the worldview we had and the timescale that seemed manageable—something we could cope with. Maybe it is a lack of foresight, or perhaps it's something we didn't expect we'd have to ever deal with.

But we've got a lamp. It's time to fill it with oil. It's time to illuminate dark corners and uncover what's important—no more denial, no more stopgap measures, no more life on hold. It's time to be honest, to look at things as they are. It's time we made ourselves ready. It's time we turned on the lights. There's a celebration happening, and we've been invited.

**Intercessions [PAT]**

God, whose very being is Community, you have called us to live faithful lives of connection and concern – and so, even though we may sometimes have no words, we hold in prayer the communities of our weary, frayed world.

Within the world-wide community, we pray for places who have recently suffered acts of religiously or ethnically motivated violence: for Kabul, Vienna, Nice, Pakistan, the WestBank and those many others which have not reached our news or pierced our consciousness; for those countries which are shaken and torn by political and ideological tensions - remembering especially at this time the people of the United States; and for countries facing waves of coronavirus where resources and support services are overwhelmed.

God of Community, **hear our prayer.**

Within the community of the United Kingdom we pray for our neighbours in England as they face a new national lockdown, and in Wales as it emerges from one, and for politicians of all the home nations as they have to make difficult decisions balancing health, well-being, employment and economic considerations; for those working in frontline health and care services; and within our own city of Glasgow - all those involved in the voluntary sector; for all whose livelihoods, health or safety are at risk.

God of Community, **hear our prayer.**

Within the community of the Episcopal church we pray for Stephen Hazlett and the churches of St Mary's, Gatehouse of Fleet and Greyfriars Kirkcudbright; for Kevin our Bishop and all former members of St Mary's Cathedral; and in the wider Anglican communion for the Church in the Province of the West Indies and Bishop Howard Gregory; and we pray for the leaders of all faith communities as they seek ways forward in these times of restriction and restraints

God of Community, **hear our prayer.**

Within the community of frail and mortal humanity we pray for those who are unwell; for those who are weary or have lost sight of hope and joy; those who have died this week and those who mourn for them; for all those who have lost their lives in conflict and those who remember them; and, at their year's mind, for Eugenie Helen Brown, Robert John Evans, Raymond Swanson and Elizabeth Walker. May all the departed rest in peace and rise in joy.

God of Community, **hear our prayer.**

And we pray for ourselves - that we may continue to live, love, and serve faithfully and with hope, in the communities where you have set us.

God of Community, **hear our prayer.**

### **Act of Remembrance [KELVIN]**

Every year at this time we make space in our service on Remembrance Sunday to pray for peace, to remember the fallen and to reflect on the pity and tragedy of war. As with so many things, this year this feels different and strange – but still we can pray, still we can remember and still we can reflect.

[PIE JESU - JUSTINE INNS]

*Pie Jesu Domine,*

*Dona eis requiem sempiternam.*

Merciful Jesus - grant them everlasting rest.

## **Communion – third video**

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

Together as a congregation over centuries, we've built this church – the physical church in Great Western Road and the people who

belongs to it. If you belong in any way to this place and want to make an offering to ensure that work continues, then it is easy to do so. Just go to [thecathedral.org.uk](http://thecathedral.org.uk) and click on DONATE TO ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL. 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.**

### **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 - [Frikki]**

Quiet Interlude - How

### **Post Communion Prayer - [LIAM]**

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.**

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

It has been good to join together in worship today. If you are finding a way into this congregation either through participating online or by coming to church or by a mixture of the two then do fill in a welcome card. You can find the card on the website – [thecathedral.org.uk](http://thecathedral.org.uk)

And now the blessing...

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.**

### **Music**

Improvisation on Dundee - Steven McIntyre

*A hymn and materials for Young Church are available on the online worship page at [www.thecathedral.org.uk/worship](http://www.thecathedral.org.uk/worship).*