

## The Gathering – first video

### *Lighting of Paschal Candle*

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

Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

Hello and welcome to this service from St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow.

My name is Kelvin Holdsworth and I'm the provost here. Whether you've celebrated many Easters in St Mary's or whether this is your first time joining in with the worship of this congregation, you are welcome here.

From the first Easter Day, the news of the resurrection has been received in people's homes and shared by groups scattered by all kinds of circumstances. Today we are connected in new ways with all who rejoice in the news we have to share.

The Paschal Candle has been lit. The news that the world needs to hear is real. Christ is risen from the dead. Death will not have the last word. Our fears will be conquered by love. For Christ is risen from the grave. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

#### **Gloria**

This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sorrow.  
My Love, the Crucified, hath sprung to life this morrow.  
Had Christ, that once was slain, ne'er burst his three-day prison,  
Our faith had been in vain: but now hath Christ arisen.

## Collect - [KELVIN]

Lord of life and power, through the mighty resurrection of your Son you have overcome the old order of sin and death and have made all things new in him. May we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, reign with him in glory, who with you and the Holy Spirit is alive, one God, now and for ever.

## The Ministry of the Word – second video

### Gospel

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." ' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

[Pulpit improv]

### **Sermon [KELVIN]**

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia

This Easter sees us celebrating the news of the resurrection in a new way. Usually it is one of the busiest days of the year in St Mary's and the church is packed. We rejoice in having to bring in extra chairs and print extra service sheets.

This year, the church itself is silent. No organ music. No choral music. No triumphant alleluias ring out in that place.

But Christ rose on a quiet morning, not to fanfares and not to large crowds either.

He appeared in places where disciples found themselves. In a garden at first. On a road as people walked next. In people's own homes.

We are specifically told that he appeared in the homes of his followers who had shut their doors and locked them because of fear.

We have unexpected connections this year with that first Easter and we will experience and hear the good news of Jesus's resurrection differently to any year that we've heard it before. And it will change us (for it always does change us) but change us in ways that we never could have expected.

Christ is risen from the dead. And instead of us turning up to greet him, the news this day is that he is with each of us wherever we are.

And the Easter gospel comes to us in our homes and in essential places of work. And the news is that death is not the end. That new life is not just possible but inevitable. The news is firm and true – that Lamentation has its place but Alleluia will ultimately down it out.

For those of us who normally gather at Easter in St Mary's, perhaps this year is a wake up call. In different times and different places people have celebrated Easter. Christ has risen from the grave when people have been at war and at the front line. Christ has risen from the grave when people have been in prison. Christ has risen from the grave when refugees have been fleeing for safety. And people have encountered the good news in the trenches or in the prison cell or on the long road to freedom that Christ is risen from the grave. New life is not our hope. It is our destiny.

And God especially loves those who can scarcely dare to dream that the resurrection can be true.

The image of Easter this year which has caught my eye is Jesus meeting Mary Magdelene in the garden in one of our paintings. It happens just by the River Kelvin. But that's not why it has caught my eye. It is because Mary Magdelene gets to understand first amongst the disciples that her beloved Lord is risen from the grave. She tries to grab hold of him but he says, "Do not touch me yet". *Nole me tangere*. This is surely the Easter of *noli me tangere*. Do not touch me yet.

We are not able to be together. We cannot share the peace or even share communion in one place at the moment. But we will once more.

The news that matters is that Christ is risen from the grave. Do not touch me yet he says to Mary in her confusion and bewilderment. But she is in no doubt that he is risen and walks through the world

bringing anew his message that everything wrong will be righted and every tear will be wiped from every eye.

New life. New joy. New ways of learning of God's love. Right here. Right now. Right where you are.

For if Christ were not risen from the dead, we would not be finding new ways to gather to meet him. Now, here in my home, there wherever you are and to the uttermost parts of the earth!

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

Amen.

### **Intercessions – Lisa Curtice**

We pray to Jesus who is present with us to eternity.

Jesus, light of the world, bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations. We pray for all who seek to combat the coronavirus outbreak.

Jesus, Lord of life, in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, bread of life, give food to the hungry, and nourish us all with your word.

Jesus, Lord of life, in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life, be with us and all who follow in the way. Deepen our appreciation of your truth, and fill us with your life.

Jesus, Lord of life, in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, good shepherd who gave your life for the sheep, recover the straggler, bind up the injured, strengthen the sick, and lead the healthy and strong to play. We pray for all those in our thoughts and prayers at this time.

Jesus, Lord of life, in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, the resurrection and the life, we give you thanks for all those who have died. Raise us with them to eternal life.

Jesus, Lord of life, in your mercy, hear us, accept our prayers, and be with us always. Amen.

## Communion – third video

However we gather for worship, when we come to the table, we are invited to bring and offer all that we have and all that we are. A part of that offering is our money which is usually brought forward with the bread and the wine and blessed at the altar. If you don't already do so and are able, please help to support this congregation or the congregation that you belong to. Details of how to do so are on our the online worship page on the cathedral website.

As the grain once scattered in the fields  
And the grapes once dispersed on the hillside  
Are now reunited on this table in bread and wine,  
So, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together  
From the corners of the earth  
Into your kingdom. Amen.

### Eucharistic Prayer

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 him thanks and praise.**

Worship and praise belong to you, Author of all being.

Your power sustains, your love restores, our broken world.

You are unceasingly at work,

from chaos bringing order  
and filling emptiness with life.

Christ, raised from the dead,  
proclaims the dawn of hope.  
He lives in us that we may walk in light.

Your Spirit is fire in us,  
your breath is power  
to purge our sin  
and warm our hearts to love.

As children of your redeeming purpose,  
freed by him who burst from the tomb  
and opened the gate of life,  
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.**

Praise and thanksgiving be to you,  
Lord of all,  
for by the Cross eternal life is ours  
and death is swallowed up in victory.  
In the first light of Easter glory broke from the tomb  
and changed the women's sorrow into joy.  
From the Garden the mystery dawned  
that he whom they had loved and lost  
is with us now in every place for ever.

Making himself known in the breaking of the bread,  
speaking peace to the fearful disciples,  
welcoming weary fishermen on the shore,  
he renewed the promise of his presence  
and of new birth in the Spirit  
who sets the seal of freedom on your sons and daughters.

Before he was given up to suffering and death,  
recalling the night of Israel's release,  
the night in which slaves walked free,  
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**

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.

### **Antiphon**

'The Call' (from *Five Mystical Songs*)  
Ralph Vaughan Williams  
Magnus Walker, tenor

### **Blessing - KELVIN**

Thank you for joining in with this service to mark Easter Day 2020. My thanks go to all those involved in making this video and the other videos that we have shared in order to keep the Great Feast this year.

May the news that Christ is risen from the dead be felt by you in your heart and soul and be known all around you, wherever you are.

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good

work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

## **Voluntary**

Praeludium in C (BuxWV 137) – D. Buxtehude

*Young church materials are available on the online worship page - [www.thecathedral.org.uk/worship](http://www.thecathedral.org.uk/worship).*