

The Gathering – first video

Welcome - [OLIVER]

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

Hello, and welcome to St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow. Like, really ... welcome to the Cathedral.

I'm Oliver Brewer-Lennon, the Vice Provost here. My being in this building is one of the first small steps we're making, responding to advice from the Scottish Government and our Bishops. I'm in this building by myself today, behind closed doors, celebrating the Eucharist. I'm joined by other folk who are alone, in other places. Each participant in our worship today remains socially distanced, even as we gather together in new ways.

In the readings today, we hear of the *disciples'* gathering—a gathering that brought change. The disciples amazed and astounded those who heard them, for they were all speaking in different languages.

May we find ourselves this day filled with the Holy Spirit and marvelling at God's power, speaking to us in surprising and diverse ways.

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]

[KELVIN] 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 our sins, heal and strengthen you by the Holy Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you,
we give thanks for your great glory.
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father,
Lord Jesus Christ, only-begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
You take away the sins of the world: receive our prayer.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
have mercy on us.
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 - [OLIVER]

Send down, O God, upon your people the flame of your Holy Spirit, and fill with the abundance of your sevenfold gift the Church you brought forth from your Son's pierced side. May your life-giving Spirit lend fire to our words and strength to our witness. Send us forth to the nations of the world to proclaim with boldness your

wondrous work of raising Christ to your right hand. We make our prayer 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

Readings: Acts 2:1-12; John 20: 19-23 – [PETE & STEVE]

A reading from the Book of Acts

When the day of Pentecost had come, Jesus' disciples were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?'

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

Hear the Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to Christ our Saviour.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

Sermon [KELVIN]

Jesus did something that now seems just a bit frightening.

I don't know how it would have felt if we'd been there, if we'd been one of the disciples.

But it sure feels a bit frightening today.

First he says "Peace be with you". So far so good.

And then he breathes on them.

Our lives and the lives of people around the world are currently such that breathing on people is something that feels very unnatural, quite frightening – in some contexts what we do with our breath could even be constituted as a crime.

It is an iconic moment which has an echo in our liturgy when we ask the bishop to breathe on the water of baptism blessed on

Easter Day. It is difficult to imagine that gesture ever happening again.

There is an element of fear in our common life. Fear of what we might catch. Fear of what we might pass on.

But that's exactly what Jesus breathing on the disciples is all about. It is about catching something. It is about passing something on.

Catching that bidding – Peace be with you to start with.

Catching hold of Jesus saying repeatedly, again and again – Do not be afraid.

Catching the life of the risen Christ who promised his disciples that such life was theirs forever.

Some of religion's most disparaging critics have spoken of Christianity as being a virus in society. Something that infects populations and hasn't been stamped out by totalitarian regimes of the left or the right and which persists despite all predictions that it will disappear.

We are infected with hope. We are infected with a sense of justice. And we are infected with the idea that the way that things are is not the way that things should be and that we share with all God's children a mandate to put things right.

That's why there have been so many voices from the church this week, including our own Primus, speaking out in the public sphere, looking for the UK government to act decently, justly and with an integrity which has seemed shockingly absent.

The reading from the book of Acts that we get at Pentecost has a great crowd of people from all around the known world hearing the gospel for the first time. As they caught fire with the news they were hearing, the church was born and began even that day, to

spread around the church. Medes, Elamites, residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia and all the rest.

It is a reading that I have loved hearing in St Mary's many times – for we too are gathered from all around the world. From Scotland, England, America, Nigeria, New Zealand, Iran, Germany and all the rest.

Each of us having breathed in something of the breath of Jesus. Each of us touched in some way by the Holy Spirit whom he promised. Each one in our diversity part of a larger whole body. For though we are many, and though we are dispersed, we are one Body – Christ's body spread over the world and still with his work to do.

At the High Altar of this church there is a representation of the Day of Pentecost. Right in the middle of the disciples there's Mary – a reminder that she was there not only for the horrors of the cross but also to see him raised and to share in his Spirit with the others.

As people who bear her name, we as the congregation of St Mary's Cathedral can say one of us was there, right there, at the beginning of the founding of the church. And we share with her and with all those who were there then and who have encountered Jesus ever since – a mandate.

A mandate to weep with those who weep.

A mandate to demand justice for those who need it.

A mandate to change the world for the better.

And a mandate to live as joyful people whose song is alleluia in the best of times but in the worst of times too.

And we sing that song in our hearts, even when we can't sing it with our lips.

The doors where the disciples met were locked. Jesus brought them peace. And they rejoiced.

The places where we are, are still in some form of lockdown. Jesus brings the same things that he always brings - a Spirit who gives peace, joy, comfort, healing, wisdom and strength. And, yes, discomfort for the powerful, discomfort for the arrogant and discomfort for the proud – and the gift to God's people of being able to speak love aloud.

Our faith is like that. Always has been. Always will be.

In the name of God, creator, redeemer, liberator.

Amen.

Intercessions [Taylor]

God of love and justice, whose Spirit descended like fire upon the disciples, be with us now on this Feast of Pentecost as we offer prayers for the world, the church, and our own lives.

We continue to pray for all those worldwide whose lives have been affected in ways great and small by COVID-19. Comfort the afflicted and those who mourn, and strengthen those who work in healthcare, retail, service, and mutual aid, and all who work to preserve life under impossible circumstances.

God, your disciples were filled with your Spirit, and all who had gathered heard the good news in their own language. In this time of need, inequality, and injustice, give us the boldness and the discernment to speak truth to power, to demand justice for the most vulnerable, and to meet others where they are.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

On the day that we commemorate its founding, we pray for your church throughout the world. We bring before you The Most Rev Leonard Dawea, Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Melanesia

and Bishop of Temotu. In our own diocese, we pray for our Primus and Interim Bishop, Mark Strange and for Kevin Pearson, our Bishop-Elect. We also offer prayers for the Anglican Communion and the Primates' Meeting.

We pray for our own cathedral, St Mary's, and all who minister there and have worked to continue the work of the church during lockdown. We pray especially this week for development projects at the cathedral. On this Feast of Pentecost, we bring before you our sister cathedrals: St Mungo's, St Andrew's Roman Catholic, and St Luke's Greek Orthodox cathedrals. Although we are divided and dispersed at present, help us to remember that we are one body in Christ your Son.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We now name before you in the silence of our hearts the people and situations near to us in need of our prayers.

Loving God, at your resurrection you appeared before the fearful disciples who were locked inside, saying, 'Peace be with you.' In our time of fear, uncertainty, and isolation, be among us in our own homes to speak peace into our lives, and fill us with your Spirit that we may be a comfort to others.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We commend to your loving care all those who have died recently, remembering especially Phyllis Garden, Theresa Hardcastle, and George Floyd. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Communion – third video

People wondered what it meant that on the Day of Pentecost the disciples started speaking in different languages. One thing they

would come to learn is that this diversity reflected God's desire to be known to all kinds of people.

As I speak to you today, I know I'm not just speaking to one kind of person. Rather, I'm speaking to people who have different experiences, come from different places, and have differing points of view. That's the kind of place St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow is: a place that strives to look and sound like that Pentecost gathering.

I invite you to support this assembly in which you're taking part by making a financial contribution. Demonstrate your participation in this cacophony, this brilliant noise in the Body of Christ.

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 - [OLIVER]

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, 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 [IN MANY LANGUAGES]

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.

Music

Bach Adagio – [LES & RONA]

Blessing & Dismissal

Jesus breathed on his disciples and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.' May God's breath fill the house where you are, and may you receive power to proclaim the Good News in your own way.

The Spirit of truth lead you into all truth, give you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, and to proclaim the word and works of God; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Voluntary

Bells from the Inveraray Bell Tower rung by St Mary's Guild of Change Ringers before the lockdown. (Full track is available on the Cathedral's website.)

Items for Young Church are available on the online worship page at www.thecathedral.org.uk/worship.