



THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

Baptism and Confirmation



President: The Bishop of Dover

Saturday 12th April 2025

5.30pm

Quire

Candidates for Confirmation

Letitia Williams
Linda Hutchings
Samuel Cook

Candidates for Baptism and Confirmation

Olivia Moses
Sally Hird

Cover Image: detail from The Baptism of Christ,
window in the Trinity Chapel, Canterbury Cathedral



Please ensure that mobile phones are switched off. No form of visual or sound recording, or any form of photography, is permitted during Services. Thank you for your co-operation.



An induction loop system for the hard of hearing is installed in the Cathedral. Hearing aid users should adjust their aid to T.



Large print orders of service are available from the stewards and virgers. Please ask.

Preparation

Before the service a welcome is given, stand when the hymn begins



*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful:
the Lord God made them all.*

³The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden,
he made them every one:

Each little flower that opens,
each little bird that sings,
he made their glowing colours,
he made their tiny wings:

⁴The tall trees in the greenwood,
the meadows where we play,
the rushes by the water
we gather every day:

²The purple-headed mountains,
the river running by,
the sunset, and the morning
that brightens up the sky:

⁵He gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God almighty,
who has made all things well:

Words: C F Alexander (1818-95) Tune: ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL AM 533ii

The Bishop says

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

There is one body and one spirit.

There is one hope to which we were called;

one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

one God and Father of all.

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

The Bishop introduces the service

The Collect

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father,
by the power of your Holy Spirit
you give your faithful people new life in the water of baptism.
Guide and strengthen us by the same Spirit,
that we who are born again may serve you in faith and love,
and grow into the full stature of your Son, Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit
now and for ever.

Amen.

Sit

The Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 37.21-28

Thus says the Lord God: I will take the people of Israel from the nations among which they have gone, and will gather them from every quarter, and bring them to their own land. I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all. Never again shall they be two nations, and never again shall they be divided into two kingdoms. They shall never again defile themselves with their idols and their detestable things, or with any of their transgressions. I will save them from all the apostasies into which they have fallen, and will cleanse them. Then they shall be my people, and I will be their God.

My servant David shall be king over them; and they shall all have one shepherd. They shall follow my ordinances and be careful to observe my statutes. They shall live in the land that I gave to my servant Jacob, in which your ancestors lived; they and their children and their children's children shall live there for ever; and my servant David shall be their prince for ever. I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; and I will bless them and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary among them for evermore. My dwelling-place shall be with them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Then the nations shall know that I the Lord sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary is among them for evermore.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

The Gospel

John 11.45-57

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

I am the vine and you are the branches,
abide in me and you will bear much fruit.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what he had done. So the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the council, and said, 'What are we to do? This man is performing many signs. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and destroy both our holy place and our nation.' But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, 'You know nothing at all! You do not understand that it is better for you to have one man die for the people than to have the whole nation destroyed.' He did not say this on his own, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus was about to die for the nation, and not for the nation only, but to gather into one the dispersed children of God. So from that day on they planned to put him to death.

Jesus therefore no longer walked about openly among the Jews, but went from there to a town called Ephraim in the region near the wilderness; and he remained there with the disciples.

Now the Passover of the Jews was near, and many went up from the country to Jerusalem before the Passover to purify themselves. They were looking for Jesus and were asking one another as they stood in the temple, 'What do you think? Surely he will not come to the festival, will he?' Now the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that anyone who knew where Jesus was should let them know, so that they might arrest him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Sit

Sermon

The Bishop of Dover

Stand to sing, as the candidates gather round the font



Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here;
come bow before him now with reverence and fear:
in him no sin is found - we stand on holy ground.
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.

²Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;
he burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned:
how awesome is the sight - our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

³Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place;
he comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace -
no work too hard for him, in faith receive from him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

Words: David Evans (b. 1957)

Tune: BE STILL

AM 358

The Liturgy of Initiation

Presentation of the Candidates

The congregation remains seated. The candidates stand round the font.

The Bishop asks those who are candidates for baptism

Do you wish to be baptized?

I do.

The Bishop asks the candidates for confirmation who have been baptized

Are you ready with your own mouth and from your own heart to affirm
your faith in Jesus Christ?

I am.

The Bishop addresses the whole congregation

Faith is the gift of God to his people.

In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling.

People of God, will you welcome these candidates
and uphold them in their life in Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

The Decision

The Bishop addresses the candidates

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.
To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

I come to Christ.

Signing with the Cross

The Bishop makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each candidate for baptism, saying

Christ claims you for his own.

Receive the sign of his cross.

When all the candidates for baptism have been signed, the Bishop says to them

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

**Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ
against sin, the world and the devil,
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,
restore in you the image of his glory,
and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

Amen.

Prayer over the Water

The Bishop goes to the font. The congregation stands.

The Bishop pours water into the font and says

Praise God who made heaven and earth,
who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ
was baptized in the river Jordan:
we thank you for the gift of water
to cleanse us and revive us.
We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea
you led your people out of slavery
to freedom in the Promised Land.
We thank you that through the deep waters of death
you brought your Son,
and raised him to life in triumph.

Bless this water, that all who are washed in it
may be made one with Christ
in his death and in his resurrection,
to be cleansed and delivered from all sin.

Send your Holy Spirit upon all the baptized,
bring them to new birth in the household of faith,
and raise them with Christ to full and eternal life;
for all might, majesty, authority, and power are yours,
now and for ever.

Amen.

Profession of Faith

The Bishop addresses the congregation

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess together with these candidates the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Baptism

The Bishop baptises each candidate, saying

N, I baptize you
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Bishop sprinkles the other candidates and then the congregation as the candidates return to their seats and the choir sings

O Lord, give thy Holy Spirit into our hearts, and lighten our understanding,
that we may dwell in the fear of thy Name, all the days of our life,
that we may know thee, the only true God,
and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.

Words: From the Latin, Office of the Holy Spirit

Music: Thomas Tallis (c. 1505-85)

After the Bishop has returned to the altar she says

Almighty God,
we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith
with all who have been baptized into your name.
Keep us faithful to our baptism, and so make us ready for that day
when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The congregation sits, the candidates come to stand before the Bishop to be confirmed.

Confirmation

The Bishop says

Our help is in the name of the Lord
who has made heaven and earth.

Blessed be the name of the Lord
now and for ever. Amen.

The Bishop extends her hands towards those to be confirmed and says

Almighty and ever-living God,
you have given these your servants new birth
in baptism by water and the Spirit,
and have forgiven them all their sins.
Let your Holy Spirit rest upon them:
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding;
the Spirit of counsel and inward strength;
the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness;
and let their delight be in the fear of the Lord.

Amen.

As each candidate comes forward the Bishop addresses them by name and anoints them with holy oil

N, God has called you by name and made you his own.

She then lays her hand on the head of each, saying

Confirm, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Once all have been confirmed, they turn to face the congregation and the Bishop invites the congregation to pray for them

**Defend, O Lord, these your servants with your heavenly grace,
that they may continue yours for ever,
and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more
until they come to your everlasting kingdom. Amen.**

The newly confirmed turn back to face the Bishop

The congregation stands

The Peace

The Bishop says

God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Members of the congregation may greet one another with a sign of peace.

Remain standing as the choir sings

Magnificat

My soul doth magnify the Lord :
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded :
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth :
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me :
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him :
throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm :
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat :
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things :
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel :
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son : and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.

Music: Lennox Berkeley (1903-89) Chichester Service

Sit

The Bishop says to the newly confirmed

You now share, with all the members of the Church, the privilege of praying to our Father, through his Son Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

So, let us pray for the whole world,
which is being renewed by Christ,
the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

Prayers of Intercession

The Bishop introduces the prayers, saying

Let us pray

As a royal priesthood, let us pray to the Father
through Christ who ever lives to intercede for us.
Reveal your kingdom among the nations;
may peace abound and justice flourish.
Especially for Ukraine, the Holy Land, Sudan,
and all places where there is war and civil strife.
May we be agents of the peace that is your gift and will.
Your name be hallowed.

Your kingdom come.

Send down upon us the gift of the Spirit
and renew your Church with power from on high.
Especially for those who are seeking to discern
a new Archbishop of Canterbury, for Rose, Bishop of Dover,
the community of this Cathedral and the Diocese of Canterbury,
and all who profess and call themselves Christians.
Your name be hallowed.

Your kingdom come.

Deliver the oppressed, strengthen the weak,
heal and restore your creation.
Especially for those who are in want;
all who are sick in body, mind or spirit,
and those who do not know the joy of your love.
Your name be hallowed.

Your kingdom come.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the Church on earth,
and nourished by your Word and Sacraments,
may we, now and in eternity,
join our prayers with all the saints in glory.
Your name be hallowed.

Your kingdom come.

The Lord's Prayer

The Bishop says

As we join our prayers with the Church Universal, so we say,
each in our own language, the prayer that Jesus taught us.

**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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Notre Père...

Vater Unser...

Onze Vader...

Padre Nuestro...

Ojcie Nasz...

Baba Yetu...

E to matou Matua...

Ein Tad...

Please stand as the Bishop says

Let us pray.

God of mercy,
by whose grace alone we are accepted
and equipped for your service:
stir up in us the gifts of your Holy Spirit
and make us worthy of our calling;
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
in love and joy and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

As we sing the first two verses of the next hymn, the candidates come to stand before the Bishop.



Hope of our calling: hope through courage won;
By those who dared to share all Christ had done.
Saints of today, Christ's banner now unfurled,
We bring his gospel to a waiting world.

2Hope of our calling: hope with strength empowered,
Inspired by all that we have seen and heard;
This call is ours, for we are chosen too,
To live for God in all we say and do.

The Sending Out

Remain standing

Commission & Blessing

The Bishop addresses the whole congregation

Those who are baptised are called to worship and serve God.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you persevere in resisting evil,
and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people,
loving your neighbour as yourself?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society,
by prayer for the world and its leaders,
by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

With the help of God, I will.

The God of all grace who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus,
establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Remain standing to sing the rest of the hymn while the Bishop lights
candles from the Pascal Candle and gives them to the newly confirmed.*



³Hope of our calling: hope with grace outpoured,
From death's despair the gift of life restored;
Our call to serve, to wash each others' feet,
To bring Christ's healing touch to all we meet.

⁴Hope of our calling: hope by faith made bold;
To sow God's righteousness throughout the world;
Bring peace from conflict, fruitfulness from weeds,
The kingdom's harvest from a mustard seed.

⁵Hope of our calling: Spirit-filled, unbound,
Old joys remembered and new purpose found,
Our call refreshed by sacrament and word,
We go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Words: Ally Barrett (b. 1975)

Tune: WOODLANDS

AM 493, Tune 394

Then the Bishop says

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness
and has given us a place with the saints in light.
You have received the light of Christ;
walk in this light all the days of your life.

**Shine as a light in the world
to the glory of God the Father.**

Go in the light and peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

*The Bishop leads the newly confirmed through the congregation to the
West end of the Quire and round the North Quire Aisle, returning to the
Presbytery, where photographs will be taken on the High Altar steps.*

Those leaving the service will be directed by the stewards via the North or South Quire Aisles or the Dean's Steps.

*There will be a retiring collection to support the work of the Cathedral, which costs £30,000 per day to maintain.
If you would prefer use the QR code.*



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