

# **A Service of Confirmation and Baptism**



**St Andrew's, Rugby  
Sunday 5th May 2024**

**President: The Rt Revd Edward Condry**

**Welcome to St Andrew's, Rugby, to this Service of Baptism and Conformation, as we support George, Glenn, Mel, Mia and Charlie on their journey of faith.**

Baptism and confirmation are the first steps on a journey of faith, a journey that will take a lifetime.

They are acts that the church call 'sacraments.'

Sacraments use symbols to show that something real is happening spiritually, even though it can't be seen.

The symbols of baptism - water, the sign of the cross and a lighted candle – focus on new life, belonging to God and what it means to live in the world as a Christian. Water is vital for the body and God's Holy Spirit is vital for spiritual life. We pray that God will use this water as a way for us to receive the new life that God wants to give. At creation, God made order out of chaos. God's presence can do the same in our lives. In baptism, God washes away all the things about us that aren't life-giving. We are 'born again' to have a fresh start and live our lives as children of God.

Baptism marks the beginning of a journey with God which continues for the rest of our lives; the first step in response to God's love. Welcome to the Church family!

Confirmation— This is another step taken after baptism, often when people have been baptized as a child. It is an opportunity for people to make promises for themselves. Your friends and family as well as the local Christian community will be there to promise to support and pray for you.

The bishop will lay their hands on your head , anoint you with oil and ask God's Holy Spirit to give you the strength and commitment to live God's way for the rest of your life.

**Can we take pictures?**

Yes, of course! Take as many as you like, but we ask that you do not use your flash (it makes the Priest feel like they are being attacked by paparazzi)...

**Should I turn my mobile off?**

Well, thank you so much for asking! Yes, please make sure to turn it off. This is a celebration and we don't want to ruin the moment.

**Are children welcome?**

Yes, of course! Children are very welcome, it's OK if they make a noise, cry, shout for joy or go wondering. Please feel free to get up and go for a walk with them during the service if you wish.

**We have driven for 2 hours, where are the toilets?**

At the back of church is a wooden archway where you will find the toilet and baby changing facilities.

**How do I participate?**

Everything is found in the Service Booklet. Just follow along... The priest says the bits not in bold and you say everything in bold print.

**How long will all this last for?**

The service will last approximately 60 minutes.

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*As the service begins, the St Andrew's Community Singers sing:*

Veni, lumen cordium  
Veni, sancte spiritus  
Come, light of our hearts  
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

## The Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All**    **And also with you.**

Alleluia, Christ is risen

**All**    **He is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

*Words of welcome may be said.*

## Introduction

Brothers and sisters, we meet today to support and to pray for those who are to be baptized and confirmed. At the heart of this service are two distinct, yet related acts. First the candidates will profess their faith in Christ, confirming their desire to serve God throughout their lives, to turn to Christ and to renounce all evil. They will then either be baptized for the first time or renew their baptism commitment and be confirmed. As bishop, I will lay my hand on them, praying that God's Spirit will confirm, strengthen and guide them as they strive, each day of their lives, to live up to the solemn commitment they will make today. It is our privilege and joy as the people of God to hear the candidates' response to God's call and to renew our own baptismal commitment to our Lord Jesus Christ.

## Opening responses

Jesus says, 'I am the way for you'

**All**    **And so we come to follow Christ**

Jesus says 'I am the truth for you'

**All**    **And so we come to dwell in the light**

Jesus says 'I am the life for you'

**All** And so we come, leaving behind all to which we cling

## Opening prayer

Thus says the Lord: 'I will pour clean water upon you and I will give you a new heart; a new spirit I will put within you'. Fulfill for us his gracious promise, so that by his coming the Holy Spirit may make us witnesses before the world to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever

**All** Amen.

## Hymn

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart.  
Be all else but naught to me, save that thou art.  
Be thou my best thought, in the day and the night.  
Both waking and sleeping my presence my light.**

**Be Thou my wisdom, be thou my true word.  
Be thou ever with me and I with thee Lord.  
Be thou my great Father, and I thy true son.  
Be thou in me dwelling and I with thee one**

**Be thou my breast-plate, my sword for the fight.  
Be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might.  
Be thou my soul's shelter, be thou my strong tower:  
O raise thou me heavenward, great power of my power**

**Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise.  
Be thou mine inheritance, now and always.  
Be thou and thou only the first in my heart.  
O sovereign of Heaven, my treasure Thou art.**

**High King of heaven, thou Heaven's bright sun.  
O grant me its joys now that victory is won.  
Great heart of my own heart whatever befall,  
Still be thou my vision, O ruler of all**

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

**All** Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said, 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete'.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another'.

*(John 15:9-17)*

**All** This is the Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

*The Rt Revd Edward Condry*

## **Hymn**

**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.**

**Be 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.**

**Be 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.**

## The Liturgy of Baptism and Confirmation Presentation of the Candidate(s)

*The candidates, their Godparents and sponsors, are presented with the following words:*

Bishop I present (N) to be baptized

Bishop I present (N) to be confirmed

*The bishop asks the candidates for baptism:*

Do you wish to be baptized?

**I do.**

*The bishop asks the candidates for confirmation who have been baptized (together with those who wish to affirm their baptismal faith:*

Have you been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit?

**I have.**

*The bishop asks **all** the candidates*

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 Charlie, George, Glenn, Mia and Mel and uphold them in their life in Christ?

**All With the help of God, we will.**

## **The Decision**

*The bishop addresses all 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 president or another minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each candidate, saying:*

Christ claims you for his own.  
Receive the sign of the cross.  
Do not be ashamed of Christ.  
You are his for ever.

**All Stand bravely with him  
against all the powers of evil,  
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.

**All Amen.**

## Prayer over the Water

*We move to the font, where the bishop blesses the water.*

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

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

Loving Father,  
we thank you for your servant Moses,  
who led your people through the waters of the Red Sea  
to freedom in the Promised Land.  
We thank you for your Son Jesus,

who has passed through the deep waters of death  
and opened for all the way of salvation.  
Now send your Spirit,  
that those who are washed in this water  
may die with Christ and rise with him,  
to find true freedom as your children,  
alive in Christ for ever.

**All Amen.**

## **Profession of Faith**

*The bishop says:*

Let us affirm, together with these who are being baptised,  
our common faith in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe in God the Father,  
source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

**All I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

**All I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

**All I believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**All This is our faith.  
We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

## Baptism

*The bishop may address each candidate for baptism by name, saying*

N, is this your faith?

**This is my faith.**

*The bishop or another minister pours water on each candidate, saying*

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

**All Amen.**

*The bishop says to the baptism candidates*

May God, who has received you by baptism into his Church, pour upon you the riches of his grace, that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit, and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory.

**All Amen.**

*The candidates for confirmation who have previously been baptized may come forward to the font and sign themselves with water, or the bishop may sprinkle them.*

*Then the bishop says*

Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all who have been baptized in 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.

**All Amen.**

## Confirmation

*The bishop and candidates return to the place of confirmation. The bishop stands before those who are to be confirmed and says*

Our help is in the name of the Lord  
**All Who has made Heaven and earth.**

Blessed be the name of the Lord  
**All Now and for ever. Amen.**

*The Bishop extends his hand to 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.

**All Amen**

*The bishop addresses each candidate by name*

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

*He then lays his hand on the head of each and anointing them with oil of chrism, saying*

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

## Prayer

*The bishop then invites the congregation to pray for all who have been baptized and confirmed*

**All** 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.

Together, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**All** Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.

## Hymn

*During the hymn the bishop and candidates move to the west door*

**O Jesus, I have promised  
to serve Thee to the end;  
be Thou for ever near me,  
my Master and my Friend;  
I shall not fear the battle  
if Thou art by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway  
if Thou wilt be my Guide.**

**O let me hear Thee speaking  
in accents clear and still,  
above the storms of passion,  
the murmurs of self-will;  
O speak to reassure me,  
to hasten or control!  
O speak, and make me listen,  
Thou Guardian of my soul!**

**O Jesus, Thou hast promised  
to all who follow Thee  
that where Thou art in glory  
there shall Thy servant be;  
and, Jesus, I have promised  
to serve Thee to the end;  
O give me grace to follow,  
my Master and my Friend!**

**O let me see Thy footprints,  
and in them plant mine own;  
My hope to follow duly is in Thy strength alone;  
O guide me, call me, draw me,  
uphold me to the end;  
And then in Heav'n receive me,  
my Saviour and my Friend.**

## The Commission

Those who are baptized 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?

**All** **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?

**All** **With the help of God, I will.**

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

**All** **With the help of God, I will.**

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

**All** **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?

**All** **With the help of God, I will.**

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, that you may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

**All** **Amen.**

### Giving of a lighted candle

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.

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



## Blessing and Dismissal

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 upon you and remain with you always.

**All**    **Amen.**

Go in the light and peace of Christ

**All**    **Thanks be to God.**

*Thank you for being at this service today*

*Please do stay for refreshments*

*If you would like to donate to the work of  
this Church you can do so either by the  
card machine at the back of Church or  
here:*





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