

Welcome to St John's for this Confirmation Service. We hope you will be able to join in with the Hymns and everything that is in **bold** type. Whether this is your first time in St John's, or you are a regular member of the congregation, you are most welcome as we give thanks and praise to God.

The posture directions in this order of service are optional. Please stand, sit, or kneel as you prefer.

A collection is received during the service. UK tax payers are asked to complete a GiftAid envelope to enhance the value of their giving.

Children are welcome to stay in Church for the whole Service but, should you need it, there is a Children's Room at the back of church which parents are invited to use if they wish.

The Mass Setting is by David Thorne.

Our organist for the evening is Keith Beniston, Director of Music, The Parish of Boxmoor.

"No Christian is solitary.

Through baptism we become members one of another in Christ,
members of a company of saints
whose mutual belonging transcends death:

One family, we dwell in him,
one Church, above, beneath;
though now divided by the stream,
the narrow stream of death."

(Charles Wesley)

**Please pray for those to be Baptised and Confirmed
during today's Service**

Names can be found on the back page.

All remain standing. The Bishop gives

The Blessing

Christ our King make you faithful and strong to do his will,
that you may reign with him in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

♪ Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Organ Voluntary

*The Bishop leads the newly confirmed through the church to the outside world.
Please remain standing until the choir and clergy have processed out of church.*

***Our worship has ended; let our service begin.
Thanks be to God!***

*You are invited to stay for refreshments
at the back of church.*

All remain seated. Immediately before the Service the Rural Dean gives

The Notices and Welcome

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

After the Notices a period of silent preparation is observed.

The Gathering

Please stand at the entrance of the choir and clergy. All sing

The Hymn: Crown him with many crowns

Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own:
awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
those wounds yet visible above
in beauty glorified:
no angel in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends his burning eye
at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose power a sceptre sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
and all be prayer and praise:
his reign shall know no end,
and round his piercèd feet
fair flowers of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown him the Lord of years,
the Potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime:
all hail, Redeemer, hail!
for thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.

Diademata 147 AMNS

The Bishop addresses the Congregation:

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 Collect

Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven
that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

All sit for

The Old Testament Reading:

A reading from book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. Therefore, thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Jeremiah 23: 1-6

Thanks be to God.

All remain seated to sing:

The Chant: In the Lord I'll be ever thankful

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful, in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God, do not be afraid; Lift up your voices the Lord is near.
Lift up your voices the Lord is near.

Taize Community

The Bishop gives

The Commission

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 to 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 praying for the world and its leaders, by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

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.

Amen.

All remain standing to sing:

The Hymn: Christ triumphant, ever reigning

Christ triumphant, ever reigning,

Saviour, Master King!

Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,

hear us as we sing:

Yours the glory and the crown,

the high renown, the eternal name!

Word incarnate, truth revealing,

Son of Man on earth!

power and majesty concealing

by your humble birth:

Priestly king, enthroned for ever

high in heaven above!

sin and death and hell shall never

stifle hymns of love:

So, our hearts and voices raising

through the ages long,

ceaselessly upon you gazing,

this shall be our song:

Guiting Power 612 AM

The Choir may sing

The Anthem: Teach me thy way

Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes:
and I shall keep it unto the end.

*Thomas Attwood (1765–1838)
Psalm 119: 33*

All stand. The Bishop prays

The Prayers after Communion

Almighty God,
the source of all holiness and giver of all good things:
may we who have shared at this table
as strangers and pilgrims here on earth
be welcomed with all your saints
to the heavenly feast on the day of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All pray together:

**Living God, draw us deeper into your love;
Jesus our Lord, send us to care and serve;
Holy Spirit, make us heralds of good news.
Stir us, strengthen us,
teach and inspire us to live your love
with generosity and joy,
imagination and courage;
for the sake of your world
and in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

The Sending Out

The Giving of a Lighted Candle

The Bishop gives each candidate a lit candle, representing the Light of Christ, and reminding each of their Baptism, says:

N, receive this 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.

All turn to face where the Gospel is to be proclaimed and remain standing for

The Gospel:

Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heaven.

Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Luke.

♪ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.']] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.' One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

St Luke 23: 33–43

♪ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon

Bishop Christine

The Liturgy of Initiation

The Presentation of the Candidates

All remain seated. The candidates stand before the Bishop.

The Bishop asks those who are to be baptised:

Do you wish to be baptized?

Bapt **I do.**

The Bishop asks the candidates for confirmation who have been baptised:

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

Ans **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?

Ans **I am.**

The Bishop asks all the 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?

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.

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

Ans **I reject them.**

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

Ans **I renounce them.**

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

Ans **I repent of them.**

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

Ans **I turn to Christ.**

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

Ans **I submit to Christ.**

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

Ans **I come to Christ.**

May God, who has given you the desire to follow Christ,
give you the strength to continue in the Way. **Amen.**

The Signing with the Cross

Those to be baptised come and stand before the Bishop, who makes the sign of the cross with Holy Oil on the forehead of the candidates, saying:

Christ claims you for his own.
Receive the sign of his cross.

During the administration of Communion the following may be sung.

All remain seated to sing

The Hymn: Alleluia, sing to Jesus!

Alleluia, sing to Jesus!

his the sceptre, his the throne;
alleluia, his the triumph,
his the victory alone:
hark, the songs of peaceful Sion
thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus out of every nation
hath redeemed us by his blood.

Alleluia, not as orphans

are we left in sorrow now;
alleluia, he is near us,
faith believes, nor questions how:
though the cloud from sight received him,
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise,
'I am with you evermore'?

Alleluia, bread of angels,
thou on earth our food, our stay;
alleluia, here the sinful
flee to thee from day to day:
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
earth's Redeemer, plead for me,
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia, King eternal,
thee the Lord of lords we own;
alleluia, born of Mary,
earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne:
thou within the veil hast entered,
robed in flesh, our great High Priest;
thou on earth both Priest and Victim
in the Eucharistic Feast.

Hyfrydol 271 NEH

The Hymn: Servant King

From heaven you came, helpless babe,
entered our world, your glory veiled;
not to be served but to serve,
and give your life that we might live.

*Refrain: This is our God, the Servant King,
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.*

There in the garden of tears,
my heavy load he chose to bear;
his heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not my will but yours,' he said.

Refrain:

Come, see his hands and his feet,
the scars that speak of sacrifice,
hands that flung stars into space
to cruel nails surrendered.

Refrain:

So let us learn how to serve,
and in our lives enthrone him;
each other's needs to prefer,
for it is Christ we're serving.

Refrain:

Servant King 489 AM

All kneel or sit to say:

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we are bold to 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.
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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Happy are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

The Agnus Dei

♪ **Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: grant us peace.**

The Giving of Communion

All are welcome to come to the Altar to receive the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ. If you are a communicant, after the words with which the sacrament is offered please respond, "Amen." Gluten free wafers are available - please indicate to the minister that you would like one.

If you wish to receive a blessing instead of the sacrament, please indicate this by bringing this booklet with you to the rail.

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

**All 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.

All Amen.

During the following Hymn, the Bishop and candidates move to the Font. All sing:

The Hymn: King of glory, King of peace

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| King of glory, King of peace, I will love thee; and that love may never cease, I will move thee. Thou hast granted my request, thou hast heard me; thou didst note my working breast, thou hast spared me. | Wherefore with my utmost art I will sing thee, and the cream of all my heart I will bring thee. Though my sins against me cried, thou didst clear me; and alone, when they replied, thou didst hear me. |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Seven whole days, not one in seven,
I will praise thee;
in my heart, though not in heaven,
I can raise thee.
Small it is, in this poor sort
to enrol thee:
e'en eternity's too short
to extol thee.

Gwalchmai 391 NEH

The congregation turn to face the Font.

The Bishop stands before the water of baptism and says:

The Prayer over 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.

The prayer continues, ending:

... to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be all honour and glory, now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Profession of Faith

The Bishop addresses the congregation:

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

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

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

Do you believe and trust in his Son, Jesus Christ?

All **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?

All **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 addresses the candidates:

Is this your faith?

Ans **This is my faith.**

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

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.
Amen.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

♪ **Christ has died:**

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.
Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

All remain standing. The Bishop leads

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

♪ **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

♪ **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

♪ **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For with the oil of gladness

you have anointed Christ the Lord, your only Son,
to be our great high priest and king of all creation.

As priest, he offered himself once for all upon the altar of the cross
and redeemed the human race by this perfect sacrifice of peace.

As king he claims dominion over all your creatures,
that he may bring before your infinite majesty
a kingdom of truth and life,

a kingdom of holiness and grace,

a kingdom of justice, love and peace.

And so with angels and archangels and all the heavenly host,

we proclaim your glory

and join their unending hymn of praise:

♪ **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.

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;

grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,

and according to your holy will,

these gifts of bread and wine

may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,

took bread and gave you thanks;

he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;

do this in remembrance of me.

Asperging

The Bishop sprinkles the remaining candidates with Holy Water to remind them of their Baptism. The Bishop then prays:

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 organ plays as the Bishop and candidates return to the Chancel Step.

The congregation is invited to kneel or sit.

The Invocation of the Holy Spirit

The Bishop says:

As disciples of Christ we are called to shine his light in the world.

We cannot do this on our own. Let us pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit
to strengthen and support us on our journey of faith.

All remain seated or kneeling to sing the following Hymn, the first line of which is cantored:

The Hymn: Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire

Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,

and lighten with celestial fire;

thou the anointing Spirit art,

who dost thy seven-fold gifts impart:

Thy blessed unction from above

is comfort, life, and fire of love;

enable with perpetual light

the dullness of our blinded sight:

Anoint and cheer our soiled face

with the abundance of thy grace:

keep far our foes, give peace at home;

where thou art guide no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,

and thee, of both, to be but one;

that through the ages all along

this may be our endless song,

Praise to thy eternal merit,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Veni Creator (Mechlin) 138 NEH

The Prayer of Confirmation

The candidates stand as the Bishop continues:

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.

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.**

The candidates sit or kneel to pray.

The candidates are called forward, in turn, by their vicars, saying:

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

The Bishop then lays a hand on the head of each, saying:

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

The Bishop anoints each with the Oil of Chrism, saying:

Shine as a light in the world, as one of God's chosen ones,
beloved and accepted in Jesus Christ our Lord.

When all have been confirmed and received we pray together:

**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 Welcome

The Bishop says:

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism.
By one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.
**We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;
we are children of the same heavenly Father;
we welcome you.**

The congregation greet the newly confirmed with applause.

The Peace

All stand. The Bishop introduces the Peace, saying:

We are fellow-citizens with the saints and the household of God,
through Christ our Lord, who came and preached peace
to those who were far off and those who were near.
The peace of the risen Christ be always with you
and also with you.

With the words "peace be with you," all may exchange a sign of peace.

A collection is received during the following hymn for the diocesan share in the cost of training candidates for Ordination. Please give generously.

All sing

The Offertory Hymn: Praise my soul the King of Heaven

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet thy tribute bring.

Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?

Praise him! Praise him!

Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;

praise him still the same for ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.

Praise him! Praise him!

Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;

in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.

Praise him! Praise him!

Widely as his mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face;

sun and moon, bow down before him;
dwellers all in time and space.

Praise him! Praise him!

Praise with us the God of grace.

Praise, my soul 436 NEH

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

All remain standing for

The Preparation of the Table

The Bishop, taking the bread and wine, says:

As the grain once scattered in the fields
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside
are now united 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.