



# **Confirmation Service**

**by**

**The Bishop of Oxford**

**Sunday 17th of October 2021  
6pm**

## Words in bold said by all

**THE GATHERING** *At the entry of the ministers, a hymn is sung.*

### Hymn:

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heav'n, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art.  
Visit us with thy salvation;  
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

2 Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit  
into ev'ry troubled breast.  
Let us all in thee inherit,  
let us find the promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be.  
End of faith, as its beginning,  
set our hearts at liberty.

3 Come, Almighty, to deliver,  
let us all thy life receive.  
Suddenly return, and never,  
nevermore they temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

4 Finish, then, thy new creation;  
true and spotless let us be.  
Let us see thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in thee.  
Changed from glory into glory,  
till in heav'n we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love and praise.

## **Greeting**

*The bishop greets the people,*

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**

*The bishop introduces a period of silent prayer and says the collect*

Heavenly Father,  
by the power of your Holy Spirit  
you give to 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.**

## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

*Please sit*

**First Reading - Isaiah 53: 4-end**  
*read by Joel Denno*

*Please stand*

**Gospel Reading - Mark 10: 35-45**  
*read by Revd Stephanie Bullock*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end*

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

**Sermon**  
**Bishop of Oxford**

***Hymn:***

Be still for the presence of the Lord  
The Holy one is here  
Come bow before him now  
In 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 INITIATION

### Presentation of the Candidates

*The candidates are presented to the congregation where appropriate, they may be presented by their godparents or sponsors*

*The bishop asks the candidates*

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

**I have.**

*The bishop says*

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

**Amen.**

*The Bishop stands before 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.**

Blessed are you, sovereign God of all,  
to you be glory and praise for ever.

You are our light and our salvation.

From the deep waters of death

you have raised your Son to life in triumph.

Grant that all who have been born anew by water and the Spirit,  
may daily be renewed in your image,

walk by the light of faith,

and serve you in newness of life;

through your anointed Son, Jesus Christ,

to whom with you and the Holy Spirit

we lift our voices of praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

## 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.**

*The bishop sprinkles the candidates for confirmation with water from  
the font saying*

Remember your baptism into Christ Jesus.

*Then we say together..*

**Almighty God,  
we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith  
with all who have been baptised 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 bishop and the candidates return to the front*

*The Candidates stand in front of the bishop.*

### **Confirmation**

*The congregation kneels (or sits). Where there are sponsors they may come to stand behind the candidates.*

*The bishop stands before those who are to be confirmed, and 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 his 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.**

*The bishop goes in turn to each candidate, who says*

I am 'N'.

*Where there are sponsors they may place their hand on the candidate's shoulder.*

*The bishop addresses each candidate by name and anoints them with holy oil saying*

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

*He then lays his hand on the head of each, saying*

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

**Amen.**

*The bishop invites the congregation to stand to pray for all those on whom hands have been laid*

**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.**

## **Commission**

*The bishop addresses the 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.**

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.**

## **The Peace**

*The bishop introduces the Peace using these words*

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. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*The bishop greets the newly confirmed, who then return to their places and all  
exchange a sign of peace.*

### **Hymn:**

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;  
I ever with thee, and thou with me, Lord.  
Born of thy love, thy child may I be,  
thou in me dwelling and I one with thee.

3 Be thou my buckler, my sword for the fight.  
Be thou my dignity, thou my delight,  
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tow'r.  
Raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

4 Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise;  
thou mine inheritance, now and always.  
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
Ruler of heaven, my treasure thou art.

5 High King of heaven, when vict'ry is won  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!  
Heart of my heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*The bishop takes the bread and wine.*

Father, by your Holy Spirit  
you keep the Church in unity and truth.  
As we break bread together,  
may we be one with Christ in faith and hope and love  
now and for ever.

**Amen**

### The Eucharistic Prayer

*The bishop says*

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 him thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,

Holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
For he is our great high priest  
who has entered once for all  
into the heavenly sanctuary,  
evermore to pour upon your Church  
the grace and comfort of your Holy Spirit.

He is the one who has gone before us,  
who calls us to be united in prayer  
as were his disciples in the upper room  
while they awaited his promised gift,  
the life-giving Spirit of Pentecost.  
Therefore all creation yearns with eager longing  
as angels and archangels sing the endless hymn of  
praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts,  
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Glory be to thee O Lord most high  
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death  
rising you restored our life:  
Lord Jesus, come in glory**

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in you loving arms  
and bring us with all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever

**Amen**

## The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour 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.  
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.**

## Breaking of the Bread

*The bishop breaks the consecrated 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.**

## Agnus Dei

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us**

**Lamb of God  
you take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace**

## Giving of Communion

*The bishop says*

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.  
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia**

*The bishop and people receive communion.  
The newly confirmed receive first.*

*During the distribution the choir will sing a selection of music including:*

## Prayer after Communion

*Silence is kept. When the bishop says Let us pray all stand*

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**

**Faithful God in baptism you have adopted us as your children,  
made us members of the body of Christ  
and chosen us as inheritors of your kingdom:  
we thank you that in this Eucharist  
you renew your promises within us,  
empower us by your Spirit to witness and to serve, and  
send us out as disciples of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## THE SENDING OUT

### The Blessing

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 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.  
**Amen.**

#### Hymn:

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

### **Giving of a Lighted Candle**

*During the hymn, the bishop will have given all the candidates a lighted candle. These candles are lit from the same candle used at the Decision.*

*When all have received a candle, 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.**

### **The Dismissal**

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The bishop leads the newly confirmed through the church to the  
applause of the congregation.*

*You are all warmly invited to the  
Church Hall for light refreshments*

