



THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

Baptism and Confirmation



President: The Archbishop of Canterbury

Sunday 17th March 2024

5.30pm

Quire

This evening we welcome candidates from the Parishes of Romney Marsh who will be confirmed alongside members of the Cathedral Community.

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



God is here! As we his people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of his Spirit
into open minds and hearts.

²Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.
here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.

³Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold,
here, as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.

⁴Lord of all, of Church and Kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt,
keep us faithful to the gospel,
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive:
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!

The Archbishop 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 Archbishop 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

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt – a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

The Gospel

John 12:20-33

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.

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say – "Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Sit

Sermon The Archbishop

Stand to sing, as the candidates gather round the font



Just as I am, without one plea
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidst me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come.

²Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come.

³Just as I am, thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come.

⁴Just as I am, of that free love
the breadth, length, depth, and height to prove,
here for a season, then above,
O Lamb of God, I come.

Words: Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871)

Tune: SAFFRON WALDEN

AM 451i

The Liturgy of Initiation

Presentation of the Candidates

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

The Archbishop asks those who are candidates for baptism

Do you wish to be baptized?

I do.

The Archbishop asks the candidates for confirmation who have been baptized and those who are to be received into the communion of the Church of England

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

I am.

The Archbishop 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 Archbishop 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 Archbishop 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 Archbishop 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 Archbishop goes to the font. The congregation stands.

The Archbishop 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 Archbishop 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 Archbishop baptises each candidate, saying

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

Amen.

*Those who are to be received into the communion of the Church of
England stand before the Archbishop to make this declaration.*

The Archbishop says

You are here to be received into the communion of the
Church of England.

Do you acknowledge the Church of England as part of the one,
holy, catholic and apostolic Church?

I do.

Do you accept the teaching, discipline and authority of the
Church of England?

I do.

Will you take part with us in worship and mission?

I will.

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

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

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.

From Louis Vierne (1870-1937), Missa solennelle

After the Archbishop has returned to the altar he 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 standing before the Archbishop in groups to be confirmed.

Confirmation

The Archbishop 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 Archbishop 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.

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

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 with your Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Once all have been confirmed, they turn to face the congregation and the Archbishop 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 Archbishop

The congregation stand

The Peace

The Archbishop 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 to sing



Source and fount of all creation,
pour thy Spirit from above
on the bearers of thine image,
offspring of a human love.
Human hopes and human graces
break beneath the weight of sin;
fear and envy wrench asunder
world without and self within.

²Human love is unavailing
counter-weight to sin and strife;
love of God alone can hold us
on the way that leads to life.
Praised be God, whose Son our Saviour
human nature has restored,
living, dying, raised in glory,
to the likeness of its Lord.

³Trace, O Christ, salvation's pattern,
God and sinner reconciled,
in an all-embracing story:
new creation, new-born child.
Word incarnate, world's Redeemer,
here in us thy work repeat,
signed and sealed thine own for ever,
till the pattern stands complete.

⁴Christ our universal Saviour,
nature's poet, nature's priest,
through life's troubled waters bring us
to the eucharistic feast,
where rejoicing saint and sinner
praise the Lord of time and space,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
fount of being, source of grace.

Words: Peter Baelz (1923-2000)

Tune: BLAENWERN

AM 337

The Archbishop 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

Heavenly Father,
receive into the arms of your mercy
all who have been baptized
and make them your own for ever;
that, having tasted of your goodness,
they may ever hunger for your continuing presence
in their walk of faith.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done.

Stir up within your Church the zeal that inspires
your saints in every generation.

Give us a due sense of your grace,
and the strength to do your will.

You measure us by our needs;
may we never measure you by our impatience.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done.

Surrounded by so great a company of witnesses,
may we honour your blessings
in all the ages that have gone before,
and live in joyful expectation
of your promises in the ages yet to come.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done.

As we continue in prayer, 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: Lidley's Prayers (1566)

Music: Thomas Tallis (c 1505-85)

The Lord's Prayer

The Archbishop says

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.

Please stand as the Archbishop 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 verse of the next hymn, the candidates come to stand before the Archbishop.



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 Archbishop 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 Archbishop lights
candles from the Pascal Candle and gives them to the presenting
ministers who pass the light 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 Archbishop 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 Archbishop leads the newly confirmed through the congregation to
the West end of the Quire and onto the Pulpitum Steps where photographs
will be taken.*

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

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