



THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

Confirmation



President: The Archbishop of Canterbury

Sunday 20th September 2026

5.30pm

Quire

Candidates for Confirmation

Philip
Alistair
Tobias
Guy
Elijah

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 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

Epistle

1 Corinthians 12.4-13

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Remain seated as the choir sings

Confirma hoc Deus, quod operatus es
in nobis. In templo tuo, quod est in
Jerusalem, tibi offerent reges
munera. Alleluia

*Confirm, O God, what thou hast
wrought in us. From thy temple in
Jerusalem, kings shall offer presents
to thee. Alleluia*

Words: Gradual for Pentecost

Music: William Byrd (c. 1540-1623)

Stand

The Gospel

John 3.1-8

Alleluia, alleluia.

Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life.

Alleluia.

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.

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.'

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



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 sits. The candidates remain standing.

The Archbishop says to the candidates

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

I have.

The Archbishop says to the candidates

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

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.

Prayer over the Water

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.

*The Archbishop sprinkles the 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 Archbishop 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 Archbishop
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 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 Archbishop 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 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 stands

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 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: Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924), in B flat
Arr. Adrian Lucas (b. 1962)*

Sit

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

The Archbishop 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, the wider Middle East, 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 Sarah, our Archbishop, 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 Archbishop 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...

Πάτερ ἡμῶν

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 verses 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,
will 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 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?

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 Paschal 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 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 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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