

ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH, CANTERBURY

Sung Eucharist with Confirmation



Led by
The Right Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin
Bishop of Dover

Sunday 8th October 2023



An induction loop system for the hard of hearing is installed in our Church. Hearing aid users should adjust their aid to 'T'



Large print orders of service are available from the sidespersons. Please ask.



Toilet facilities are available in the Church Hall. Please ask a Sidesperson for directions.



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Welcome to our worship at St Stephen's today

We celebrate today the dedication of this Church to the glory of God and as a house of prayer. For over 800 years this Church has been dedicated to the memory of the first Christian martyr Saint Stephen, who gave his life whilst confessing the name and lordship of Jesus Christ. As we join our prayers with his and those of the countless numbers who have served Christ here in this place over the centuries, we remember that we too are called to dedicate our lives to Christ's service and to the glory of God. Today, those who have been preparing over the last few months to renew and reaffirm their faith will be Confirmed by the bishop. This is an important day for them as they dedicate their lives to Christ's service and affirm their commitment to the Christian way before Christ's people. We pray with and for them that, strengthened by God's Holy Spirit, they may remain faithful to Christ for as long as they shall live.

Being presented for Confirmation today are:

Enid Dixon
Edward Hunter
Sophie MacLean
Charlotte MacLean
Augustine Pratheek

May God bless them and all who worship Christ in this place that they may continue to be faithful witnesses, and that this house of prayer continue to be a sign of God's glory in the world.



The Gathering

When the vestry bell is rung, we STAND and the choir sing the introit

Locus iste

ANTON BRUCKNER (1824–1896)

Locus iste a Deo factus est,
inaestimabile sacramentum,
irreprehensibilis est.

*This place was made by God,
a priceless sacrament;
it is without reproof.*

We remain STANDING for the hymn as the ministers

Christ is made the sure foundation

NEH 205

The bishop says

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The Greeting

The bishop greets the people

The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Words of welcome and introduction are said.

Prayer of Preparation

This prayer is said

All **Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

We are a temple of God's indwelling Holy Spirit,
yet we have grieved him.
The temple of our bodies does not belong to us,
but was bought at the price of Christ's precious blood.
So we come, in sorrow yet with confidence,
to ask forgiveness of our Father in heaven.

All **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

The bishop says

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

All *Gloria! Gloria! Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria! Gloria! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

*Gloria! Gloria! Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria! Gloria! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

*Gloria! Gloria! Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria! Gloria! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.**

*Gloria! Gloria! Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria! Gloria! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*
Amen.

Music: 'The Canterbury Service'
STEPHEN BARKER

The Collect

The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

Almighty God,
to whose glory we celebrate the dedication of this house of prayer:
we praise you for the many blessings
you have given to those who worship you here:
and we pray that all who seek you in this place may find you,
and, being filled with the Holy Spirit,
may become a living temple acceptable to you;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**



The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

We SIT for the readings.

Acts 7: 51 – 60

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

‘You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are for ever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it.’

When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ‘Look,’ he said, ‘I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!’ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’ When he had said this, he died.

This is the word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

Galatians 2: 16b – 20

A reading from Paul’s letter to the Galatians.

We have come to believe in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by faith in Christ, and not by doing the works of the law, because no one will be justified by the works of the law. 17 But if, in our effort to be justified in Christ, we ourselves have been found to be sinners, is Christ then a servant of sin? Certainly not! 18 But if I build up again the very things that I once tore down, then I demonstrate that I am a transgressor. 19 For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; 20 and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now

live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

This is the word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

We all STAND, and while the Gospel procession moves to the centre of the nave, the choir sing Psalm 122

- 1 I was glad when they said unto me :
We will go into the house of the Lord.
- 2 Our feet shall stand in thy gates :
O Jerusalem.
- 3 Jerusalem is built as a city :
that is at unity in itself.
- 4 For thither the tribes go up, even the tribes of the Lord :
to testify unto Israel, to give thanks unto the Name of the Lord.
- 5 For there is the seat of judgement :
even the seat of the house of David.
- 6 O pray for the peace of Jerusalem :
they shall prosper that love thee.
- 7 Peace be within thy walls :
and plenteousness within thy palaces.
- 8 For my brethren and companions' sakes :
I will wish thee prosperity.
- 9 Yea because of the house of the Lord our God :
I will seek to do thee good.

Gospel Reading

The acclamation heralds the Gospel reading

Choir Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

All **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Choir Lord, we love the house of your habitation
and the place where your glory abides.

cf Psalm 26.8

All **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 23: 34 – 39

Therefore I send you prophets, sages, and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town, so that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. Truly I tell you, all this will come upon this generation.

‘Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you, desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.”’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon



The Liturgy of Initiation

Presentation of the Candidates

The bishop asks the candidates for confirmation who have been baptized

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.

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.

The bishop addresses the whole congregation

Faith is the gift of God to his people.

In baptism the Lord has added to our number those whom he has called.

People of God, will you welcome these candidates for confirmation and uphold them in their life in Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

All

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.

All

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

All

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.**

All

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.**

Confirmation

*We sing together Veni creator as the bishop and candidates prepare for
confirmation.*

Come, Holy Ghost
NEH 138

The bishop stands before those who are to be confirmed and says

All Our help is in the name of the Lord
who has made heaven and earth.

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

The bishop 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.
All **Amen.**

The bishop addresses each candidate by name

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

She then lays her hand on the head of each, saying

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

Prayers of Intercession

The bishop introduces our period of prayer

The risen Christ is here in the midst of us.
We bring our prayers to him as Lord of the Church.

We SIT or KNEEL

All For the Church universal,
of which these buildings are a visible symbol,
Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

All For this congregation,
as we remember your promise
that when two or three are gathered in your name
you are there in the midst of them,
Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

All For this place, that we may be still and know that you are God,
Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

All For the fulfilling of our desires and petitions as you see best for us,
Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

All For your blessings in the past and for a vision for the future,
Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

All For the gift of the Holy Spirit and new life in baptism,
Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

All For the pardon of our sins when we fall short of your glory,
Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

All For a foretaste of your eternal kingdom
in the sacrament of the eucharist,
Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

All For the blessing of our vows
and the crowning of our years with your goodness,
Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

For the faith of those who have gone before us
and for grace to persevere like them,

All **Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.**

For the benefactors of this place who have died in the peace of Christ
and are at rest,

All **Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.**

For a sense of our fellowship with St Stephen our patron and all your
saints,

All **Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.**

O God, from living stones
you prepare an everlasting dwelling—a place for your majesty.
Grant that in the power of the Holy Spirit
those who serve you here
may always be kept within your presence.
This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**



The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

We STAND.

The bishop addresses the newly confirmed

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:
Enid, Edward, Sophie, Charlotte and Augustine, today you have
reaffirmed your baptism and confirmed your faith in Christ.

All **We welcome you in the fellowship of faith;
we are children of the same heavenly Father;
we welcome you.**

The bishop introduces the Peace

Peace to this house from God our heavenly Father.
Peace to this house from his Son who is our peace.
Peace to this house from the Holy Spirit, the life-giver.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine

We sing the Offertory Hymn

Stephen, first of Christian martyrs

NEH 201 (t. 'Hyfrydol' 271)

During the hymn, the gifts of the people are gathered and presented.

The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

Lord, teach us how to repay you for your goodness towards us.
We will lift up the cup of salvation
and call upon your name.

All **Amen.**

The bishop takes the bread and wine.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

All **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
almighty and eternal Father,
enthroned upon the praises of your people.
We thank you for this house of prayer,
in which you bless your family
as we come to you in pilgrimage.
Here you reveal your presence in sacramental signs
and make us one with you through the unseen bond of grace.
Here you build your temple of living stones
and bring the Church to its full stature
as the body of Christ throughout the world,
to reach its perfection at last
in the heavenly city of Jerusalem,
which is the vision of your peace.

Therefore, in union with the heavenly Jerusalem,
with angels in joyful assembly,
with all whose names are written in heaven
and with the spirits of the righteous made perfect,
we lift up our voices to join in the triumphal song of praise:

All **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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;

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.

All **To you be glory and praise for ever.**

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.

All **To you be glory and praise for ever.**

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

All Great is the mystery of faith:
**Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **To you be glory and praise for ever.**

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

All **Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**

We SIT or KNEEL

The Lord's Prayer

All 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 president breaks the consecrated bread.

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

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

The Agnus Dei is sung.

All **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.**

Giving of Communion

The president says this or another invitation to communion

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.

All **Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

The president and people receive communion.

Authorized words of distribution are used and the communicant replies

Amen.

During the distribution a hymn and anthem are sung by the choir.

Holy Spirit, come, confirm us

NEH 140

Beati quorum via

CHARLES VILLIERS STANFORD (1852–1924)

Beati quorum via integra est,
qui ambulant in lege Domini.

*Blessed are the undefiled in the way,
who walk in the law of the Lord.*

Psalm 119. 1

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

The Post Communion prayer is said

Father in heaven,
whose Church on earth is a sign of your heavenly peace,
an image of the new and eternal Jerusalem:
grant to us in the days of our pilgrimage
that, fed with the living bread of heaven,
and united in the body of your Son,
we may be the temple of your presence,
the place of your glory on earth,
and a sign of your peace in the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**



The Sending Out

Commission

We STAND and the bishop addresses those who have been confirmed and 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?

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.**

The Blessing

The bishop blesses the people, saying

God has given you the citizenship of heaven,
with his blessed and beloved,
and the whole company of the redeemed.

All **Amen.**

God give you the will to live each day in life eternal.

All **Amen.**

God bring you to the home
that Christ prepares for all who love him.

All **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Giving of a lighted candle

We sing the hymn, during which The bishop gives those newly confirmed a lighted candle.

O Jesus, I have promised

NEH 420

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.

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

The Dismissal

A minister says

Like living stones, precious in his sight,
go in peace to proclaim the mighty acts of God.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The Bishop processes out with those who have been confirmed, followed by the servers, clergy and choir.

Toccata

THÉODORE DUBOIS (1837–1924)

Please join us for fizz, cake, tea, coffee and fellowship as we celebrate in the church hall after this service.

Cover image: Detail from the East window of St Stephen's Church, Canterbury.

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