

ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH, CANTERBURY

Sung Eucharist with Confirmation



**The Presentation of
Christ in the Temple
Sunday 2nd February 2025**

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

www.ststephenscanterbury.net



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Welcome to our worship at St Stephen's today

We celebrate today the feast of the Presentation of Our Lord Jesus in the Holy Temple of Jerusalem by his parents to meet the requirements of Torah, the laws of Moses. By doing this he was revealed as the coming Saviour for whom the prophets Anna and Simeon had longed all their lives. They rejoiced at his coming and we too rejoice that we can come into relationship with him, with the blessings and joy that follow.

Today, we also present five people who are taking another step forward in their faith by coming before our bishop to affirm the promises made at their baptism and take their places as full members of the Church. By prayer and the laying on of hands, in the ancient way of the Church, our bishop will confirm them and we shall all 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.

Those being Confirmed today are:

Anthony Kemp

presented by Fr. David Vannerley

Helen Brunger

presented by Libby Nichols

Louis Garner

presented by Ann Rogers, Head Server

Patricia Moon

presented by her baptismal sponsors, Jean Baker and Angela Doe

Valerie Coulter

presented by Deacon Sally Pickersgill

May God bless them and all who worship Christ in this place.



The Gathering

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

Arise, shine, for your light has come

Music: MARTIN HOW (1931–2022)

Words: The Third Song of Isaiah (Isaiah 60. 1–3, 11, 14)

*Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.*

For behold, darkness covers the land;
deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.
But over you the Lord will rise,
and his glory will appear upon you

Nations will stream to your light
and kings to the brightness of your dawning.
Your gates will always be open;
by day or night they will never be shut.

They will call you, The City of the Lord,
The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

We remain STANDING for the hymn as the ministers enter

Of the Father's heart begotten

NEH 33, omit vv. 2, 3 & 6

The Greeting

The Bishop greets the people

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All

Blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Introduction

The bishop introduces the service.

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.**

Hear the words of our Saviour Jesus Christ:
'I am the light of the world
Whoever follows me shall never walk in darkness
But shall have the light of life'.
Therefore, let us bring our sins into his light
And confess them in penitence and faith.

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

We remain STANDING.

The Bishop introduces a period of silent prayer with the words

Let us pray that we may know and share the light of Christ.

Silence is kept.

Almighty and ever-living God,
clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple,
in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to you
with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

We SIT.



The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

We SIT for the readings.

*Malachi 3.1–5
Hebrews 2.14–end*

At the end of each, the reader says

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 24.7–10*

- 7 Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors :
and the King of glory shall come in.
- 8 Who is the King of glory :
it is the Lord strong and mighty, even the Lord mighty in battle.
- 9 Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors :
and the King of glory shall come in.
- 10 Who is the King of glory :
even the Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

Gospel Reading

The acclamation heralds the Gospel reading

Choir Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

All **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Choir This child is the light to enlighten the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.

cf Luke 2.32

All **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

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

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

Luke 2.22–40

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

The Rt Rev'd Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Bishop of Dover



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.

The Decision

A large candle may be lit. 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. 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 says

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

All **Amen.**

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

All 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 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.

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

All **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.**

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

This response may be used

All Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

And at the end

All Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**



The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

We STAND.

The bishop introduces the Peace

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high has broken upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.78,79

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

Alleluia, sing to Jesus

NEH 271

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

If you would like to make a donation towards the work of St Stephen's, a plate will be passed around for cash donations; if you are able to Gift Aid your donation please complete a giving envelope. There is a card reader for contactless contributions at the back of church and you can also make a donation by scanning this QR code on your smart phone.



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

Father, in Christ there has sprung up a light for the righteous;
accept the gifts we bring before you
and grant that Christ may shine in us
to the praise and glory of 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 and good,
always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise
through Jesus Christ, who is one with you from all eternity.
For on this day he appeared in the Temple
in substance of our flesh
to come near to us in judgement.
He searches the hearts of all your people
and brings to light the image of your splendour.
Your servant Simeon acclaimed him as the light to lighten the nations
while Anna spoke of him to all who looked for your redemption.
Destined for the falling and rising of many,
he was lifted high upon the cross
and a sword of sorrow pierced his mother's heart
when by his sacrifice he made our peace with you.
And now we rejoice and glorify your name
that we, too, have seen your salvation
and join with angels and archangels
in their unending hymn 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

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All **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

When to the temple Mary went

Music: JOHANNES ECCARD (1553–1611)

Words: translated from the German by

JOHN TROUTBECK (1832–1899)

When to the temple Mary went,
And brought the Holy Child,
Him did the aged Simeon see,
As it had been revealed.
He took up Jesus in his arms
And blessing God he said:
In peace I now depart, my Saviour having seen,
The Hope of Israel, the Light of men.

Help now thy servants, gracious Lord,
That we may ever be
As once the faithful Simeon was,
Rejoicing but in Thee;
And when we must from earth departure take,
May gently fall asleep and with Thee wake.

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

The Post Communion prayer is said

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.

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.**

Giving of a lighted candle

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

Christ be our light

LONGING for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
Light for the world to see.
Christ be our light!
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

- 2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.
- 3 Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
Shared until all are fed.
- 4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
Walls made of living stone.
- 5 Many the gifts, many the people,
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
Making your kingdom come.
Christ be our light!
Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

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 Blessing

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

All **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

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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