

Service of
Confirmation
with Holy Communion



*President: The Right Reverend David Urquhart,
Bishop of Birmingham*

Sunday 13th December 2020, 10.30am

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to St Mary's today for this service of celebration and commitment.

All of us are on a journey through life. Each of us has important choices to make, and the quality and meaning of our lives are shaped by those choices. Today we share in an important moment in the journey of faith being taken by our Confirmation Candidates.

Baptism marks the beginning of our Christian journey. It signifies our joining of the church and acceptance as sons and daughters of God. Confirmation is another important point along the way, where we affirm for ourselves the faith we have been baptized into and our intention to live a life of commitment to Jesus Christ.

Each of our candidates has been preparing for today by exploring what that life entails. Through the words of this Confirmation service, and in their own words, they will confess that they know Jesus and want to be known as a Christian.

Please pray for them, that the Holy Spirit will inspire and empower them as they step out in this new stage of their faith.

Names of Confirmation Candidates:

Jo Darby (St Mary, Wythall)
Lydia Falkiner (St Mary, Wythall)
John Lanchbury (Christ Church, Selly Park)

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Welcome

Rev Amanda Featherstone, Vicar of St Mary's, welcomes the congregation.

The Bishop greets the people

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

There is one body and one spirit.

All There is one hope to which we were called;

one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

All one God and Father of all.

Peace be with you.

All And also with you.

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Third Candle - The Candle of Love

John the Baptist

Today is the Third Sunday of Advent and we will light the Candle of Love. We have already lit our candles of hope and peace as we remember Jesus, born in Bethlehem, is our hope and our peace.

Today we think of John the Baptist. John spoke to the people bravely in the desert denying his own comforts and prepared to die for what he believed.

John taught that we should share what we have with others, treat each other kindly and show God's love. He did this because he cared for people and wanted them to repent and find God's forgiveness.

(A person lights the Third Candle, the Candle of Love here)

Love is like a candle shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle we celebrate the love we have in Christ.

Collect for the Third Sunday of Advent

God for whom we watch and wait,
you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of your Son:
give us courage to speak the truth,
to hunger for justice,
and to suffer for the cause of right,
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gospel Reading: John 1: 6-8, 19-28 *(Please stand)*

read by Rev Amanda Featherstone

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end of the reading

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: Right Reverend David Urquhart

Song: Great is Thy Faithfulness

chosen by John Lanchbury

Presentation of the Candidates

The candidates for Confirmation make their way to the front of church.

The bishop asks those who are candidates for baptism

Do you wish to be baptized?

I do.

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.

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

I am.

Testimony from the Confirmation Candidates

Rev Amanda invites the candidates to share brief words of testimony.

The Bishop then 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?

All With the help of God, we will.

The Decision

The Bishop 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 bishop makes the sign of the cross above 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 bishop 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

Heavenly Father, bless this water, that whoever is washed in it may be made one with Christ in the fellowship of your Church, and be brought through every joy and sorrow of life to share the risen life that is ours in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Profession of Faith

The bishop and candidates gather at the baptismal font.

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess together with these candidates the faith of the Church.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Baptism

Rev Amanda addresses each candidate for baptism by name, saying

N, is this your faith?

and candidates answer in their own words, or

This is my faith.

Rev Amanda pours water on the candidate for baptism, saying

N, I baptize you

in the name of the Father,

and of the Son,

*and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.***

Rev Amanda says

May God, who has received you by baptism into his Church,

pour upon you the riches of his grace,

that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people

you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit,

and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory.

Amen.

The candidates for confirmation who have previously been baptized may come forward

Then the bishop 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.**

Song: The Joy of the Lord is my Strength

Confirmation

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 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.
All Amen.

The Bishop addresses each candidate by name

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.

All 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.

The Bishop leads the congregation in welcoming the newly confirmed.

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:
by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.

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

The candidates are greeted with applause.

Prayers of Intercession - led by Pam Miller

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 right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;
in your love you made us for yourself.
When we turned away
you did not reject us,
but came to meet us in your Son.

**All You embraced us as your children
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life
that we might live in him and he in us.

**All He opened his arms of love upon the cross
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed,
at supper with his friends
he took bread, and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

**All Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;
do this in remembrance of me.

**All Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**All As we eat and drink these holy gifts
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world
we offer you this sacrifice of praise
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

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

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.**

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

We are invited to receive communion. Please stand where you are and Bishop David will come to you. If you would prefer to receive a blessing instead please stand and leave your hands by your sides.

Prayer after Communion

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.**

Song: My Lighthouse *Chosen by Jo and Lydia*

Giving of a Lighted Candle

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.**

Blessing & Dismissal

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.**

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

The bishop leads the newly confirmed through the church.