



Service of Baptism, Confirmation and Affirmation

**Sunday 21st November 2021
11am St Peter and St Paul, Cudham**

by

**Rt Rev Simon Burton-Jones,
Bishop of Tonbridge**



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THE GREETING

Rev John Musson, Vicar of Cudham and Downe and Area Dean of Orpington introduces the service, then all sing the opening hymn...

**MAJESTY, worship His majesty,
Unto Jesus be glory, honour and praise.
Majesty, kingdom authority,
Flow from His throne unto His own,
His anthem raise.**

**So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus,
Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus the King.
Majesty, worship His majesty,
Jesus who died, now glorified,
King of all kings.**

The bishop greets the people

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 bishop introduces the service.

THE COLLECT

*The bishop introduces a period of silent prayer, leading into the collect. All respond: **Amen.***

OLD TESTAMENT READING Daniel 7:9-10,13, 14

⁹ 'As I looked,

'thrones were set in place,

and the Ancient of Days took his seat.

His clothing was as white as snow;

the hair of his head was white like wool.

His throne was flaming with fire,

and its wheels were all ablaze.

¹⁰ A river of fire was flowing,

coming out from before him.

Thousands upon thousands attended him;

ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him.

The court was seated,

and the books were opened.

¹³ 'In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. ¹⁴ He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshipped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

At the end of the reading

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN: I WILL WORSHIP (I will worship)
WITH ALL OF MY HEART. (with all of my heart)
I will praise You (I will praise You)
With all of my strength. (all my strength)
I will seek You (I will seek You)
All of my days. (all of my days)
I will follow (I will follow)
All of Your ways. (all Your ways)**

**I will give You all my worship,
I will give You all my praise.
You alone I long to worship,
You alone are worthy of my praise.**

I will bow down, (I will bow down)
Hail You as King. (hail You as King)
I will serve You, (I will serve You)
Give You everything. (give You everything)
I will lift up (I will lift up)
My eyes to Your throne, (my eyes to Your throne)
I will trust You, (I will trust You)
I will trust You alone. (trust You alone)

GOSPEL READING

When the Gospel is announced the reader says
Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glory to you, O Lord.

John 18:33-37

³³ Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?' ³⁴ 'Is that your own idea,' Jesus asked, 'or did others talk to you about me?' ³⁵ 'Am I a Jew?' Pilate replied. 'Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?' ³⁶ Jesus said, 'My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.'

³⁷ 'You are a king, then!' said Pilate. Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.'

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

The Liturgy of Initiation

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

The candidates are presented to the congregation by Rev John Musson and Andi Smith, youth worker at Christ Church Orpington

As they are introduced the candidates come to stand before the bishop

The bishop asks those who are candidates for baptism

Do you wish to be baptised?

I do.

The bishop asks the candidates for confirmation who have been baptized, together with those who wish to affirm their baptismal faith

Have you been baptised 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.

Brief testimonies about each of the candidates can be found at the end of the order of service

The bishop addresses the whole congregation

Faith is the gift of God to his people.

In baptism, affirmed in confirmation, 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 Paschal Candle is 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.

SIGNING WITH THE CROSS

Using the Oil of Baptism, the bishop 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 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.**

The bishop says

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 ministers and candidates for baptism, together with the candidates for confirmation, and affirmation of baptismal faith gather at the baptismal font.

The bishop stands before the water of baptism 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.

We praise you, loving Father,
for the gift of your Son Jesus.
He was baptized in the River Jordan,
where your Spirit came upon him
and revealed him as the Son you love.
He sent his followers
to baptize all who turn to him.
Now, Father, we ask you to bless this water,
that those who are baptized in it
may be cleansed in the water of life,
and, filled with your Spirit,
may know that they are loved as your children,
safe in Christ for ever. **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.

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 bishop addresses each candidate for baptism by name, saying
N, is this your faith?

and candidates answer

This is my faith.

The bishop pours water on each candidate, saying
N, (if you have not been already) I baptise you
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The bishop 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.**

Those who are to affirm their baptismal faith stand before the bishop who says

I call upon those who are affirming their baptismal faith to renew their
commitment to Jesus Christ.

The candidates face the people and make this declaration

**I answer the call of God my creator.
I trust in Jesus Christ as my Saviour.
I seek new life from the Holy Spirit.**

The congregation responds

**God, who has called you, is faithful.
Rejoice in your baptism into Jesus Christ.
Walk with us in the life of the Spirit.**

Candidates come forward to the font and sign themselves with water

The bishop then invites all who have been baptised to join him saying

**Almighty God,
we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith
with all who have been baptised 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**

CONFIRMATION

*The bishop and the candidates gather at the place of confirmation and
gather in a semi-circle*

The bishop stands before those who are to be confirmed, and 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 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. **Amen.**

The bishop addresses each candidate by name, anointing them with the Oil of Chrism

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.***

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISMAL FAITH

The bishop extends his hands towards those who wish to affirm their baptismal faith and says

God of mercy and love,

in baptism you welcome the sinner and restore the dead to life.

You create a clean heart in those who repent,

and give your Holy Spirit to those who ask.

Grant that these your servants may grow into the fullness of the stature of Christ.

Equip them with the gifts of your Holy Spirit,

and fill them with faith in Jesus Christ and with love for all your people,

*in the service of your kingdom. **Amen.***

The bishop lays his hand on each one, saying

N, may God renew his life within you

*that you may confess his name this day and for ever. **Amen***

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

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 WELCOME AND THE PEACE

The bishop addresses the newly baptised and confirmed

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

by one Spirit we are all baptised into one body.

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

The congregation greets the newly baptised and confirmed with applause

The bishop introduces the Peace then says,

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

A minister says

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace in a socially distanced way

**HYMN: KING OF KINGS, MAJESTY,
God of heaven living in me.
Gentle Saviour, closest Friend,
Strong Deliverer, Beginning and End:
All within me falls at Your throne.**

**Your majesty, I can but bow;
I lay my all before You now.
In royal robes I don't deserve,
I live to serve Your majesty.**

**Earth and heaven worship You,
Love eternal, faithful and true,
Who bought the nations, ransomed souls,
Brought this sinner near to Your throne:
All within me cries out in praise.**

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The bishop says

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

The bishop praises God for his mighty acts and all respond

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.

*The president recalls the Last Supper,
and one of this acclamation may be used*

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

*The Prayer continues and leads into the doxology, to which all respond
boldly: Amen.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 bishop breaks the consecrated bread.

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

Though we are many, we are one body,

because we all share in one bread.

GIVING OF COMMUNION

The bishop says this invitation to communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The bishop introduces a period of silent prayer, leading into the post-communion collect.

All respond: Amen.

The Sending Out

COMMISSION

The Bishop commissions the newly Confirmed and Affirmed to take their part in the life of the Church.

GIVING OF A LIGHTED CANDLE

HYMN *during which the newly baptised and confirmed are given lighted candles*

**LORD, THE LIGHT OF YOUR LOVE is shining,
In the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us,
Set us free by the truth You now bring us,
Shine on me, shine on me.**

***Shine, Jesus, shine,
Fill this land with the Father's glory;
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,
Set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
Flood the nations with grace and mercy;
Send forth Your word,
Lord, and let there be light.***

**Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,
From the shadows into Your radiance;
By the blood I may enter Your brightness,
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me.**

**As we gaze on Your kingly brightness
So our faces display Your likeness.
Ever changing from glory to glory,
Mirrored here may our lives tell Your story.
Shine on me, shine on me.**

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

THE BLESSING

*The bishop says the Blessing, concluding with
... and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.***

THE DISMISSAL

Go in the light and peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

The bishop leads the newly baptised, affirmed and confirmed through the church

*If you have been moved by this service to consider how God might be calling you, please contact your parish priest or go to the vocations page
<https://www.rochester.anglican.org/everyday-faith/>*

TESTIMONIES from the CANDIDATES

Ajisola Adeloye: Coming from a Muslim background, I've always found my journey into Christianity a humbling and quite unique experience. The significant change I see in my personal life as a child of God has been quite humbling as I never cease to wonder how a God could be so loving and forgiving to the extent to which I have experienced in the past 23years.

As I continue to respond to His love and grace by accepting the call to serve at this point in my walk with Him, I am glad to declare my absolute commitment through this process of confirmation. Having the privilege to identify with the Lord in this way is a joy, and I know as I continue to trust in Him, not leaning on my own understanding and acknowledging Him in all my ways, He will continue to make my path straight before Him in this phase of life in Jesus' name.

Olufunke Adeloye: Although born into a Christian family, I did not have a full understanding of what it means to walk and have a personal relationship with Jesus until I turned 18. Twenty eight years after, I continue to be grateful for all the different twists and turns the Lord has walked me through...some more pleasant than others but I'm sure He knows what to do with it all. Romans 8:28 being a strong personal reference.

This is another significant stage for us as a family and I'm looking forward to what the Lord is up to again at this turn for us all as a family unit. On a lighter note, I'm sure my Dad would be very pleased that even though I moved towards the Pentecostal path earlier in my walk, I'm finally getting confirmed in the CofE. I'm sure he will see this as 'finally coming home'!

Fikunmi Adeloye: My name is Fikunmi Adeloye, I'm 14 and I want to be confirmed, I have been a Christian for about 2 years now and I know that I have a lot to learn about faith and about loving and following God, but I'm sure that I will live up to his expectations and mine. It has been difficult but there are many things that I have learnt along the way, such as not trying to fit into the world's standard of living, the bible says that we are in this world but not of it, I have learnt not to follow the world just because that is easy, and I think being confirmed will just be another step higher in my walk with Christ.

Abigail Adeloje: Abigail is my Christian name, my first name is **OLUWATOYITAN**... (anyone up for the challenge of trying to pronounce that 😊😊)...it means '**CAN GOD BE THIS GREAT?**'. Little did my parents know how much of a paradox that was going to be!

You see, I was fearfully and wonderfully made, so much so the doctor proclaimed at my birth '**oh you've got a healthy baby!**' Being the youngest of 3 girls, growing up as a baby was fun, I was 'rightfully' pampered, got all the attention, especially seeing how much I took after my grandma (dad's mum) with my very fair and glowing skin. I loved bananas and lollipops! I took all the attention away from Fikunmi (my immediate older sister) and she didn't like that at all; so, we always used to fight for the same toys during playtime while my eldest sister (Teni) would just watch and laugh. Everyone used to say Fikunmi has now met her match 😊.

Life as we used to know it changed abruptly for us all, when I convulsed at 18months and then slipped into coma afterwards. The way I was treated in coma led to brain damage and within three weeks I became a very sickly toddler leading on to an entirely different happily ever after that my parents planned for.

We have always been a Christian family, so I love Jesus, and I know He is very powerful. I love being in church, my face lights up immediately I get in and I love the songs so much! Could God have stopped my brain from being damaged...from all the stories my parents read to us, without any doubts, He has the power to. But since He didn't do this, it's obvious then that, He has a plan to which I, as His creation must submit to and trust that those plans and thoughts are of good and not of evil.

The Lord has delivered me from so many incidences, my physical body is totally broken, and my lungs don't function well. He even delivered me from COVID 19 when I caught that last year!!! So, I am confident that Jesus loves me so much and He even told my mum sometime back, that I am in His hands and I'm safe there. When I am not ill and in the hospital, I am full of smiles and love to everyone around me. I could be sassy and cheeky at times when I pretend as though I'm sleeping and someone who does not know me would think not to disturb, but many people that know

me well have seen through that now, so that bubble is already busted. I'm working hard on other tricks now 😊.

I am not sure how much time I have left in this broken world, but I continue to fulfil God's purpose for my life by just '**BEING**'... Having my confirmation done at this time is significant for me and I am happy to have this privilege as another milestone in my faith journey. I am living a full life because I have the peace and life of God in me. I just wish others like me also know about Jesus and they can have His joy and love too...maybe you can help with that?

I am fulfilling God's purpose for my life despite all the limitations I have, I hope you are too!

Philip Nze: I believe that confirmation helps me become closer to God, and makes us have a stronger relationship. Receiving communion would also make me feel more involved with the Church community. The Lord also answers my prayers, and I feel very fortunate in my life.

Kachi Machi: I want to be confirmed because I will learn about God in more depth and it will answer some of my questions that have kept me thinking for a long time.

Jared London: I know the significance of God in my life. I understand the magnitude of what God has done for me. I know that God's love never fails on me. I have helped on the technical aspect of the Eucharist and would love to finally be able to join in.

Natalie Comley: I was both baptised and confirmed at the age of 11 in May 1989 at St Antony's Nunhead -the Church local to where I was living. Since moving to Cudham, I have celebrated our wedding and childrens' baptisms in Cudham Church, and I wanted to affirm the commitment I made many years ago.

Mark Comley: My Journey So Far! As I grew up, Church was always a part of my life. My primary school was a Church of England school, and we would regularly attend school services; the Scout group I was a member of was sponsored by the Church, and I would often find myself carrying the flag during Church parade. When we moved into the village where we now live, it was great to find our local Church was so

welcoming; shortly after, we were joined in marriage here, and within the next few years we were able to start our children in their journey of faith when they were both baptised.

So why now for my confirmation? As I have become more involved in church, I have been able to learn more of God's love for us; seen and heard the power of prayer, and the joy of worship. It is now the right time for me to publicly confirm the promises I made at my baptism, and share in Holy Communion.

Alexander MacLeod: I believe in God because he has given all of these talents such as piano, maths, tennis, football, Minecraft and more. I am really grateful that I have all of these talents. Well let's say I didn't have any talents (impossible cause that would not be a human), I would still believe God as he helps me adapt to my life. He would always support me when I need help and he will try to make me the best I can be. He has given me interests which is a really good thing to have. I always have believed in God and I will continue to believe in God for the rest of my life. Also, I believe God because he helps me through difficult times such as exams (which are so easy for some reason) and even losing a family member. I feel like these talents were given to me as I was born with it. God teaches to me to have always have these amazing qualities such as confidence, humbleness, determination, responsibility, forgiveness, honesty, creativity, to try my best and a lot more. I feel like I am a much better person when believing in God.

You are very welcome to stay after the service
when refreshments will be available.

www.pcd.org.uk

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