

Baptism & Confirmation

within a Celebration of Holy Communion



Sunday 21 May 2023

✚ **ST GILES'**
CHURCH, OXFORD

 **St Margaret's**
— CHURCH —

Welcome to St Margaret's Church

An especial welcome to the Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft, the Bishop of Oxford, who is taking our service today, and Revd Paul Cowan, the Bishop's Chaplain; to our friends from our sister church of St Giles'; and most especially to friends and relatives of those who are being baptised and/or confirmed today:

- Alfred
- Ana
- Iris
- Martha
- Max
- Samuel
- Scarlet
- Will

Confirmation is a special moment and a cause for great celebration for the whole church community, and we rejoice that God has brought all these individuals to this point in their journeys of faith. Please keep them, and their families, in your prayers.

The Bishop of Oxford's Outreach Fund *Reg Charity No.247954*

The Outreach Fund is dedicated to supporting the mission of the Church nationally and internationally and is generated by offerings across the diocese, particularly at ordinations, confirmations, collations, institutions and licensing.

Through the fund, the Bishop of Oxford is able to respond to a wide range of requests for help, in areas such as humanitarian need, Christian education, training and mission.

In 2022, the fund received gifts totalling £20,000 and made a total of £25,000 in donations. These donations have supported 15 projects, groups and charities. Within the diocese, grants were made amongst others to support the Young People's Taizé Retreat, The Discovering Prayer App, and The Winter Night Shelter. Nationally, grants were made to A Rocha, and The Anglican Centre in Rome, and guided by the Diocesan Partnership in World Mission team, our support for projects overseas included Congo Church Association, Christian Aid, CMS, MANNA, Embrace the Middle East, Tearfund and USPG.

Donations to the Bishop's Outreach Fund can be made,

- in the collection plate at the back of church, before or after the service,
- using the contactless card donations machine at the back of the church,
- or alternatively, online via this webpage:
oxford.anglican.org/bishop-of-oxford/outreach-fund.php.



¶ Preparation

Introit

The choir sings the introit Lead me, Lord by Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness;
make thy way plain before my face.
For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord only,
that makest me dwell in safety.

(Psalm 5:8, 4:9)

Please stand for the **Opening Hymn**

137 – *Come down, O love divine*

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.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

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.**

The bishop may introduce the service.

The Collect

The bishop introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray'

O God the King of glory,
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us
and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before,
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

Please sit for the **First Reading**

Acts 1.6-14

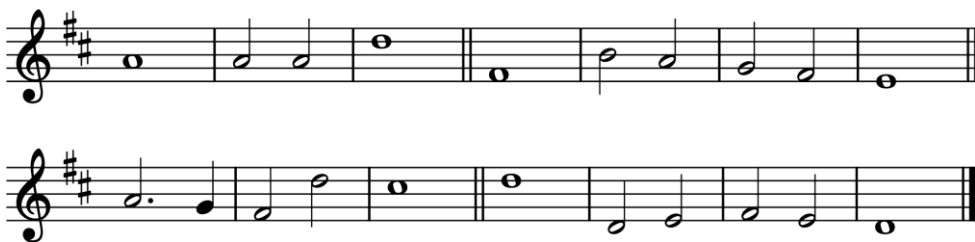
So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 68: 1-10



- 1 Let God arise and let his / enemies . be / scattered:
let those who / hate him / flee be- / fore him.
- 2 As the smoke vanishes so may they / vanish . a- / way:
as wax melts at the fire so let the wicked / perish . at the / presence . of /
God.
- 3 But let the righteous be glad and re- / jice be- . fore / God:
- / let them . make / merry . with / gladness.
- 4 Sing to God sing praises to his name * exalt him who / rides . on the /
clouds:
The Lord is his / name re- / jice be- / fore him.
- 5 Father of the fatherless de- / fender . of / widows:
God in his / holy / habi- / tation.
- 6 God gives the solitary a home * and brings forth prisoners to / songs of /
welcome:
but the rebellious in- / habit . a / burning / desert.
- 7 O God when you went forth be- / fore your / people:
- / when you / marched . through the / wilderness,
- 8 The earth shook and the heavens dropped rain *
at the presence of God the / Lord of / Sinai:
at the presence of / God the / God of / Israel.
- 9 You sent down a gracious / rain O / God:
you refreshed your in- / heri- . tance / when . it was / weary.
- 10 Your people / came to / dwell there:
in your goodness O / God . you pro- / vide . for the / poor.

Sung **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Sung **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

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

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

John 17.1-11

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please sit for the **Sermon**

¶ The Liturgy of Initiation

Presentation of the Candidates

The candidates come to the dais and face the congregation. Where appropriate, they may be presented by their sponsors.

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.

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 bishop 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 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

The bishop or another minister 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.

The bishop may invite their sponsors to sign the candidates with the sign of the 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.

All

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.

All

Amen.

Prayer over the Water

The ministers and candidates for baptism, together with candidates for confirmation, process to the baptismal font. Please follow the procession or, if preferred, simply turn and face the font.

The bishop stands before the water of baptism and says

All **Praise God who made heaven and earth,
who keeps his promise for ever.**

All Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

We thank you, almighty God, for the gift of water
to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.

Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation.

Through water you led the children of Israel
from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land.

In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John
and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ,
to lead us from the death of sin to newness of life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism.

In it we are buried with Christ in his death.

By it we share in his resurrection.

Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son,
we baptize into his fellowship those who come to him in faith.

Now sanctify this water that, by the power of your Holy Spirit,
they may be cleansed from sin and born again.

Renewed in your image, may they walk by the light of faith
and continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord;

to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be all honour and glory, now and for ever.

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.**

Baptism

The bishop may address each candidate for baptism by name, saying

N, is this your faith?

and candidates answer in their own words, or

This is my faith.

*The bishop or another minister dips each candidate in water, or pours water on them,
saying*

**N, I baptize you
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.**

All **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.

All **Amen.**

The candidates for confirmation who have previously been baptized may come forward to the font and sign themselves with water, or the bishop may sprinkle them.

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.

All **Amen.**

Confirmation

Please return to your seats, as the bishop and candidates process back and gather at the place of confirmation.

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.

All

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

All

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 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.**

Please stand for the **Commission**

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.**

Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of creation,
and sustain and renew the life of the earth?

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. **Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father.

Please sit or kneel.

This response may be used:

Lord, in your mercy
All **hear our prayer.**

In our prayers this week, we remember:

Sick: Margaret Holmes; Julia Aston Smith; Colin Cooke; Caroline Cooke;
Sue Street; Yvonne White; William Goldsmith; Melanie Florence;
Alison Bickmore; Margaret Pinsent.

RIP: Michèle Crawford (8th May 2023)

Year's mind: 21st - Bill Pressdee (2007)
25th: - Julian Bullard (2006)
- Maimie Logan (2007)
26th: - Susan Greenway (2017)
27th: - Ian Allan (2012)

At the end of the intercessions:

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

Please stand for the **The Welcome**

The bishop may address the newly baptized

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:
N and N, 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 congregation may greet the newly baptized.

¶ The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Peace

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.

All

A minister may say

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn

294 – *Just as I am*

Preparation of the Table

During the hymn, the table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

At the preparation of the table this prayer is said

Father, by your Holy Spirit
you keep the Church in unity and truth.
As we break bread together,
may we be one with Christ in faith and hope and love,
now and for ever.

All

Amen.

The president 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,
it is our duty and our joy,
at all times and in all places
to give you thanks and praise,
holy Father, heavenly King,
almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

And now we give you thanks
because by water and the Holy Spirit
you have made us a holy people in Jesus Christ our Lord,
you raise us to new life in him
and renew in us the image of your glory.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and singing:

Sung **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.

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.

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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All

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.

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.

A time of silent prayer follows.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and 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 as the bread is broken:

Sung **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 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.**

The president and people receive communion.

All are welcome to receive if you normally do so, here or at another church. If you prefer to receive a blessing, please come forward holding this booklet.

Authorized words of distribution are used and the communicant replies:

Amen.

Communion anthems

The choir sing the anthems: Listen, sweet Dove by Grayson Ives (b. 1948);

Listen sweet dove unto my song,
and spread thy golden wings in me;
hatching my tender heart so long,
till it get wing and flie away with thee.

Such glorious gifts thou didst bestow
the earth did like a heav'n appeare,
the starres were coming down to know
if they might mend their wages and serve here.

The sunne which once did shine alone,
hung down his head and wisht for night,
when he beheld twelve sunnes for one
going about the world and giving light.

Lord though we change thou art the same,
the same sweet God of love and light:
restore this day for thy great name,
unto his ancient and miraculous right.

(Words by George Herbert, 1593-1633)

and Oh for a closer walk with God by Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

O for a closer walk with God,
A calm and heavenly frame;
A light to shine upon the road
That leads me to the Lamb!

Return, O holy dove, return,
Sweet messenger of rest;
I hate the sins that made thee mourn,
And drove thee from my breast.

So shall my walk be close with God,
Calm and serene my frame;
So purer light shall mark the road
That leads me to the Lamb.

(Words by William Cowper, 1731-1800)

Prayer after Communion

Eternal God, giver of love and power,
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world
to preach the gospel of his kingdom:
confirm us in this mission,
and help us to live the good news we proclaim;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All

Amen.

¶ The Sending Out

The Blessing

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.

All **Amen.**

Please stand for the **Final Hymn**

333 – *All my hope on God is founded*

Giving of a Bible and Lighted Candle

During the hymn, the newly confirmed return to the dais, and receive a Confirmation Bible from Eva Walters (St Margaret's Children's, Families and Youth Worker), who helped to prepare many of them.

The bishop gives each of the newly confirmed a lighted candle. These are lit from the paschal candle.

After the hymn, 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

Go in the light and peace of Christ. Alleluia.

All **Thanks be to God. Alleluia.**

The bishop may lead the newly baptized and confirmed through the church.

After the service, please join us for refreshments at the back of church.