

# **Holy Communion and Confirmation**



**Conducted by  
Rt Revd Philip Mounstephen  
Bishop of Winchester**

*Sunday 29 September 2024, St Paul's Church*

*Welcome to St Paul's, especially to the family  
and friends of the confirmation candidate,  
Peter Johnson.*

*We hope you feel at home here. Please stay  
for refreshments after the service and say hello.*

*If you'd like to find out more about the church,  
please complete a welcome card –  
available near the entrance or online  
(scan the code) – and we'll be in touch.*



*Babies and children are warmly welcome to this  
service. After the children's storytime, there are  
separate activities available for those aged 10  
and under in the hall and parish rooms. Audio of  
the service will be relayed for parents or carers  
accompanying them.*

*If you would like to give during this service,  
a plate and a card machine are available near the  
entrance. Please gift aid if you're able to do so.*



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## A warm welcome to all

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<b>Hymn</b>	<i>Stand to sing</i>
<b>Greeting</b>	<i>The Bishop greets the people</i> Blessèd be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. <b>Blessèd be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.</b>
<b>Collect</b>	Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; 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. <b>Amen.</b>  <i>Sit</i>
<b>Storytime</b>	<i>Children come and sit by the dais steps</i> <i>After the story, children aged 10 and under go to</i> <i>their groups</i>
<b>First Bible reading</b>	<i>A reading from the Old Testament / epistle</i> For God's holy word, <b>thanks be to God.</b>
<b>Hymn</b>	<i>Stand to sing; remain standing for the gospel reading</i>
<b>Gospel reading</b>	Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to ... <b>Glory to you, O Lord.</b>  <i>After the reading</i>  This is the gospel of the Lord. <b>Praise to you, O Christ.</b>

*Sit*

**Sermon**

*After the sermon there are two minutes' silence for reflection*

**Presentation of the candidate**

*The Rector calls the candidate forward and presents him to the Bishop and congregation*

*The Bishop asks the candidate:*

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 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 this candidate and uphold him in his life in Christ?

**With the help of God, we will.**

**The decision**

*The paschal candle is lit. The Bishop addresses the candidate:*

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.**

*Stand*

**Profession of faith** *The Bishop addresses the congregation:*

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess  
together with this candidate  
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.**

*Sit*

**Confirmation** *The Bishop and candidate gather at the place of confirmation*

Our help is in the name of the Lord

**who has made heaven and earth.**

Blessèd be the name of the Lord

**now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

*The Bishop extends his hands towards the candidate to be confirmed and says:*

Almighty and ever-living God,

you have given this your servant new birth

in baptism by water and the Spirit,

and have forgiven him all his sins.

Let your Holy Spirit rest upon him:

the Spirit of wisdom and understanding;

the Spirit of counsel and inward strength;

the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness;

and let his delight be in the fear of the Lord.

**Amen.**

*The Bishop addresses the candidate by name, anointing him with oil in the sign of the cross.*

*(The family and friends of the candidate stand when his name is announced.)*

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

*He then lays his hand on the candidate's head, saying:*

*Confirm, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit.*

**Amen.**

**Prayers  
for the  
confirmed**

*The Bishop invites the congregation to pray for the person on whom hands have been laid*

**Defend, O Lord, this your servant with your heavenly grace,  
that he may continue yours for ever,  
and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more  
until he comes to your everlasting kingdom. Amen.**

*The confirmed person returns to his seat*

**Prayers of  
intercession**

Let us pray for the Church and for the world,  
and let us thank God for his goodness.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

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

*Stand*

**The Peace**

*The Bishop introduces 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.**

*The Deacon says:*

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We share the peace with our neighbours*

**Hymn**

*The offertory is presented during this hymn*

*Sit*

**Communion  
Prayer**

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.**

Blessèd are you, Lord God,  
our light and our salvation;  
to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the beginning you have created all things  
and all your works echo the silent music  
of your praise.  
In the fullness of time you made us in your image,  
the crown of all creation.

You give us breath and speech,  
that with angels and archangels  
and all the powers of heaven  
we may find a voice to sing your praise:

*Tune 952 in hymnbook*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord.  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.  
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,  
you embraced a people as your own.  
When they turned away and rebelled  
your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour,  
born of Mary, to be the living bread,  
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.

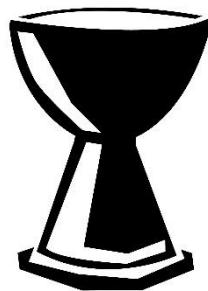


He offered his life for sinners,  
and with a love stronger than death  
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died,  
he came to supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he 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.



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 and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.



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

Father, we plead with confidence  
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;  
we remember his dying and rising in glory,  
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us  
at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you  
these gifts of your creation;  
may they be for us the body and blood  
of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things  
in your presence,  
form us in the likeness of Christ,  
and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Remember, Lord, your Church in every land.  
Reveal her unity, guard her faith  
and preserve her in peace.

Bring us at the last with St Paul and all the saints  
to the vision of that eternal splendour  
for which you have created us;  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
by whom, with whom and in whom,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty,  
in songs of everlasting praise:

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

**The Lord's  
Prayer**

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**

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.**

*Tune 952 in hymnbook*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
grant us peace.**

**Giving of  
Communion**

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.

*All are welcome to receive Communion or a blessing*

**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.**

*Remain seated for the notices*

**Hymn**

*Stand to sing*

**Commission**    *The confirmed person comes forward*

*The Bishop addresses him*

Those who are baptised 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?

**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?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbour as yourself?

**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?

**With the help of God, I will.**

May Christ dwell in your heart through faith, that you may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Giving of a lighted candle**

*The Bishop gives the newly confirmed a lighted candle to be lit from the paschal 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.**

**Blessing**

God the Father,  
by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,  
strengthen you by his life-giving Spirit  
to walk with him in the paths  
of righteousness and peace;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

*The Deacon says:*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*The person who has been confirmed processes out  
with the Bishop and clergy.*

*Refreshments are served at the back of church.  
If you are a newcomer or visitor, please come and  
say hello to one of the welcome team or clergy.*

*Eucharistic Prayer G*

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**St Matthew with St Paul**  
*Pilgrims on a journey*