

# A Service of Confirmation and Holy Communion

At St Matthew's Church, Walsall,

10.45am Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023



**The Rt Revd Jonathan Clark,  
(Acting Bishop of Wolverhampton)**

**Welcome to St Matthew's.** Please join us for **refreshments** after this service. **Children** under 10 are welcome to join our Children's Church and will leave during the 2<sup>nd</sup> song, returning to church shortly before the end of the service. The **collection** during the service will be divided between the Bishop's Ordination Candidates Fund and Embrace. Embrace is an overseas charity working alongside Christian partners in the Middle East to help them make a difference to their communities in areas such as advocacy, education, health and community development projects. They work with partners in Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq, Israel and Palestine.

## **Notices & Welcome**

### **Opening Hymn**

- **Be Thou my vision**

### **Greeting**

*The bishop greets the people, using these or other suitable words:*

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

Peace be with you.

**And also with you.**

*The bishop may add further words of welcome.*

### **The Collect**

Heavenly Lord,  
you long for the world's salvation:  
stir us from apathy,  
restrain us from excess  
and revive in us new hope  
that all creation will one day be healed  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Bible Reading**

- *1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 p.1188 (NIVUK)*

*At the end*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Sung Praise**

- **Praise is rising**
- **Bless the Lord, O my soul**

## **Gospel Reading**

*At the start:*

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

- *Matthew 25:14-30 p.994 (NIVUK)*

*At the end:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Sermon**

- (The Rt Revd Jonathan Clark)

### **The Presentation of the Candidates**

*The candidates stand and are presented by their sponsors.*

*The bishop asks all the candidates:*

Have you been baptised 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.**

*The bishop addresses the whole congregation:*

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 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.**

May God who has given you the desire to follow Christ give you strength to continue in the Way.  
All: **Amen.**

## **The 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.**

*The bishop says:*

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 the day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## **Hymn**

- **Amazing grace**  
*(My chains are gone)*

## **The 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.**  
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 candidates come and kneel or stand before the bishop.*

*The bishop may address each candidate by name:*

*(Name)*, God has called you by name and made you his own.

*The bishop anoints and then lays his hand on the head of each, saying:*

Confirm, O Lord, your servant  
*(Name)* with your Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

*(Name)*, receive the seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit.

*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.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

Father,  
we thank you that by baptism you have raised these your children with Christ to new life in the Spirit. Guide and protect them with your grace that they may follow you all their days and grow in knowledge and love of you. Father, by the victory of your Son,  
**give light to the world.**

May Christ who conquered sin and death keep his whole Church faithful to his gospel. Help us always to hold fast to truth and to walk in the way of life.

Father, by the victory of your Son,  
**give light to the world.**

May the Holy Spirit fill the hearts and minds of all nations to unite the world in peace and love. By your healing power restore all that is broken and unite us with you, our God and Father. Father, by the victory of your Son,  
**give light to the world.**

## **The Welcome and the Peace**

*The bishop addresses the newly-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 applaud the newly-confirmed.*

*The bishop introduces the Peace in these words:*

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.**

*A minister may say:*

Let us offer one another  
a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

## **Offertory Hymn**

**- O Lord my God!**

## **Offertory Prayer**

*The President may praise God for his gifts in appropriate words to which all respond:*

**Blessed be God for ever.**

*The offerings of the people may be presented. These words may be used:*

**Yours, Lord, is the greatness,  
the power, the glory, the splendour,  
and the majesty;  
for everything in heaven and on  
earth is yours.  
All things come from you,  
and of your own do we give you.**

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

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

Father, we give you thanks and praise  
through your beloved Son Jesus  
Christ, your living Word, through  
whom you have created all things;  
who was sent by you in your great  
goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took  
flesh; as your Son, born of the blessed  
Virgin, he lived on earth and went  
about among us; he opened wide his  
arms for us on the cross; he put an  
end to death by dying for us; and  
revealed the resurrection by rising to  
new life; so he fulfilled your will and  
won for you a holy people.

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 saying:

**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.**

Lord you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

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.

Great is the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the

whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, 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.**

## **The 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.**

*The bishop says:*

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.

## **Communion is Distributed**

- *The assisting ministers receive communion.*
- *The newly-confirmed receive communion.*
- *The congregation receive communion.*

*For those wishing to receive communion or a blessing, please follow the directions of the stewards to one of the communion stations.*

*Please be aware that for health and hygiene reasons it is not permitted to dip the bread in the wine.*

## **Hymns during Communion**

- **Here is bread, here is wine**
- **Before the throne of God above**
- **Light of the world**
- **Lord Jesus Christ**

## **Prayer after Communion**

Gracious Lord, in this holy sacrament you give substance to our hope: bring us at the last to that fullness of life for which we long; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

**Almighty God.**

**we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your  
Son Jesus Christ.**

**Through him we offer you  
our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.**

**Send us out  
in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work  
to your praise and glory.  
Amen.**

*All stand for the Blessing.*

The Lord be with you,  
**And also with you.**

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.**

## **The Giving of a Lighted Candle**

*During the following song each person who has been confirmed is given a lighted candle.*

**Hymn**

- **Tell out my soul**

*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.**

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

*The bishop leads the newly-confirmed through the church for a group photo outside of the main church door.*

*Electronic copies of the photo will be obtainable on request from  
rector@stmatthewswalsall.co.uk*

*Please stay and join us for tea and coffee served in the church following the service.*

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