

A Service of Confirmation and Holy Communion

At St Matthew's Church, Walsall,

10.45am Sunday 19th 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 will leave during the 2nd song and return 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 by Rev Jim Trood

Opening Hymn

1. **Be Thou my vision,**
O Lord of my heart,
naught be all else to me,
save that Thou art;
Thou my best thought
in the day and the night,
waking or sleeping,
Thy presence my light.
2. Be Thou my wisdom,
be Thou my true word,
I ever with Thee,
and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father,
and I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling,
and I with Thee one.
3. Be Thou my breastplate,
my sword for the fight;
be Thou my armour,
and be Thou my might;
be my soul's shelter,
and Thou my high tow'r;
raise Thou me heavenwards,
O Pow'r of my pow'r.
4. Riches I heed not,
nor man's empty praise;
Thou my inheritance
now and always;
Thou and Thou only,
Thou first in my heart;
High King of heaven,
my treasure Thou art.
5. O High King of heaven,
when battle is done,
grant heaven's joy to me,
bright heavens sun.
Christ of my own heart,
whatever befall,
still be my vision,
Thou ruler of all.

Greeting

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

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

Peace be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

The bishop may add further words of welcome.

The Collect (A Special Prayer for Today)

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.**

1st Bible Reading

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

5 Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, **2** for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. **3** While people are saying, 'Peace and safety', destruction will come on them suddenly, as labour pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. **5** You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. **6** So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. **7** For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. **8** But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. **9** For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. **10** He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. **11** Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sung Praise

(Children leave for their groups.)

Praise is rising,
eyes are turning to You
We turn to You.
Hope is stirring,
hearts are yearning for You
We long for You.

*'Cause when we see You,
we find strength to face the day,
In your presence,
all our fears are washed away
Washed away.*

*Hosanna Hosanna
You are the God who saves us,
Worthy of all our praises
Hosanna Hosanna
Come have Your way among us
We welcome You here
Lord Jesus.*

Hear the sound of
hearts returning to You
We turn to You.
In Your kingdom
broken lives are made new
You make all things new.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
*O my soul,
Worship His holy name.
Sing like never before,
O my soul.
I'll worship Your holy name.*

The sun comes up
it's a new day dawning;
It's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass
and whatever lies before me,
let me be singing
when the evening comes.

You're rich in love
and You're slow to anger.
Your name is great
and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness
I will keep on singing;
Ten thousand reasons
for my heart to find.

And on that day
when my strength is failing,
The end is near
and my time has come;
Still my soul
will sing Your praise unending:
Ten thousand years
and then forevermore.

Gospel Reading

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

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

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

¹⁴ 'Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶ The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁷ So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸ But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

¹⁹ 'After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. "Master," he said, "you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more."

²¹ 'His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"

²² 'The man with two bags of gold also came. "Master," he said, "you entrusted me with two bags of gold: see, I have gained two more."

²³ 'His master replied, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"

²⁴ 'Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. "Master," he said, "I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you."

²⁶ 'His master replied, "You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷ Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

²⁸ “So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. ²⁹ For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **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?

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.

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?

All: **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

All: **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?

All **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, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

*My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God, my Saviour has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love, amazing grace*

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

*My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God, my Saviour has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy reigns
Unending love, amazing grace*

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God, Who called me here below,
Will be forever mine. Will be forever mine.
You are forever mine

The Confirmation

The bishop stands before those who are to be confirmed, and says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord

All: **who has made heaven and earth.**

Blessed be the name of the Lord

All: **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 lays his hand on the head of each, saying:

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

All: **Amen.**

The bishop then anoints each with chrism, saying:

(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.

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.**

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.

All 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.

All 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.

All 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.
All: **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.

All: **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!

When I in awesome wonder
Consider all
the works Thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy power throughout
the universe displayed:

*Then sings my soul,
my Saviour God to Thee,
How great Thou art!
How great Thou art! (repeat)*

When through the woods
and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds
sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down
from lofty mountain grandeur,
And hear the brook,
and feel the gentle breeze;

And when I think
that God His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die
I scarce can take it in.
That on the cross
my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin:

When Christ shall come
with shout of acclamation
And take me home
what joy shall fill my heart!
Then shall I bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim,
my God, how great Thou art!

Offertory Prayer

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

All: **Blessed be God for ever.**

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

All: **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

All: **and also with you.**

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 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:

All: **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.

All **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.

All **Amen.**

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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The bishop 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 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

Christ is with us, he is with us
Break the bread, drink the wine
Christ is with us here

Here is grace, here is peace
Christ is with us, he is with us
Know his grace, find his peace
Feast on Jesus here

In this bread there is healing
In this cup there's life forever
In this moment, by the Spirit
Christ is with us here

Here we are, joined in one
Christ is with us, he is with us
We'll proclaim, till he comes
Jesus crucified

Before the throne of God above,
I have a strong, a perfect plea,
A great High Priest whose name is Love,
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on His hands,
My name is written on His heart;
I know that while in heaven He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart,
No tongue can bid me thence depart,

When Satan tempts me to despair,
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Saviour died,
My sinful soul is counted free;
For God the Just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me,
To look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there! The risen Lamb,
My perfect, spotless righteousness;
The great unchangeable I AM,
The King of glory and of grace!
One with Himself I cannot die,
My soul is purchased with His blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ, my Saviour and my God,
With Christ my Saviour and my God.

Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness,
Opened my eyes, let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore You,
Hope of a life spent with you.

So here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God:
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days, oh so highly exalted,
Glorious in heaven above,
Humbly You came to the earth You created,
All for love's sake became poor.

(Bridge)

And I'll never know how much it cost,
To see my sin upon that cross. *(repeat)*

Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us
You are one with us, Mary's Son.
Cleansing our souls from all their sin
Pouring your love and goodness in
Jesus our love for you we sing
Living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, now and every day
Teach us how to pray, Son of God.
You have commanded us to do
This in remembrance, Lord, of you
Into our lives your power breaks through
Living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us
Born as one of us, Mary's Son.
Led out to die on Calvary
Risen from death to set us free
Living Lord Jesus, help us see
You are Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, I would come to you
Give my life for you, Son of God.
All your commands I know are true
Your many gifts will make me new
Into my life your power breaks through
Living Lord.

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.

All: **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,
All: **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.

All: **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 the greatness of the Lord
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice
Tender to me the promise of His word
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice

Tell out my soul the greatness of His Name
Make known His might the deeds His arm has done
His mercy sure from age to age the same
His holy Name the Lord the Mighty One

Tell out my soul the greatness of His might
Powers and dominions lay their glory by
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight
The hungry fed the humble lifted high

Tell out my soul the glories of His word
Firm is His promise and His mercy sure
Tell out my soul the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and for evermore

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.**

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God.**

*The bishop leads the newly-confirmed through the church for a
group photo.*

*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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