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**A Service of Holy Communion with Confirmation**

with

The Rt Revd Dr Dagmar Winter

Bishop of Huntingdon

**

*obviously feel free to use a different image!*

DATE AND TIME

***Welcome to this service!***

***What is Confirmation?***

In this service, our confirmation candidates confirm the promises that were made when they were baptized. If they were baptized at a christening when they were a child, their parents and godparents made these promises on their behalf. As a young person or adult, they may be ready to affirm these promises for themselves and commit their life to following Jesus Christ.

At the key point of the confirmation service, Bishop Dagmar will lay her hands on their heads and ask God’s Holy Spirit to give them the strength and commitment to live God’s way for the rest of their lives.

Thank you for coming along and supporting them today!

***How old do you have to be to be confirmed?***

There is no right age for a person to be confirmed. Anyone may be confirmed who has been baptized and if they are old enough to answer responsibly for themselves. As a general rule, anyone who is over 12 years old and can answer for themselves could be ready for confirmation, but the right time for you might be at any age – you could be in your teens or in your nineties!

***How can I get confirmed?***

If you’re wondering about this, pray about it and ask others in your church to pray for you. Talk to your vicar too, and join a confirmation course which will help you explore further – and you don’t HAVE to get confirmed at the end if you’re not ready!

***But I don’t think I’m christened -?***

You will need to be baptized before you are confirmed. If you were not baptized as a child and want to make a commitment of faith, you can be baptized and confirmed in the same service, or baptized at a separate service shortly before your confirmation. You should discuss this with your vicar.

***What if I don’t really go to church that often?***

Confirmation is about being a part of the local and worldwide Christian family. If you would like to make this commitment, visit your local church and discuss this with the vicar. If you’re not sure where your local church is, you can find it by going to www.achurchnearyou.com

**Preparation**

**WELCOME/NOTICES**

**HYMN/SONG** *this here and further on are suggested spots for music if desired*

**The Greeting**

*The bishop greets the people*

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

*From Easter Day to Pentecost this acclamation follows*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

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 Collect**

...

...

…

…

**Amen.**

**The Liturgy of the Word**

**FIRST READING** –XYZ, read by NN

*At the end*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN/SONG**

**Gospel Reading –** ABC, read by NN

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**HYMN/SONG**

**The Liturgy of Initiation**

**Presentation of the Candidates**

*The bishop asks the candidates for confirmation (together with any who are to be received into the communion of the Church of England)*

Have you been baptized 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*

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?

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

**Decision**

*With the Easter Candle alight, the bishop addresses 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.**

*Or a shorter form may be used:*

Do you turn to Christ?

**I turn to Christ.**

Do you repent of your sins?

**I repent of my sins.**

Do you renounce evil?

**I renounce evil.**

May God who has given you the desire to follow Christ,

give you also strength to continue in the Way.

**Amen.**

*The Bishop and candidates make their way to the font,*

*taking orders of service with them.*

**PRAYER AT THE FONT**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, sovereign God of all,

to you be glory and praise for ever.

You are our light and our salvation.

From the deep waters of death

you have raised your Son to life in triumph.

Grant that all who have been born anew by water and the Spirit,

may daily be renewed in your image,

walk by the light of faith,

and serve you in newness of life;

through your anointed Son, Jesus Christ,

to whom with you and the Holy Spirit

we lift our voices of praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

**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 candidates for confirmation may come forward to the font and sign themselves with water, or the bishop may sprinkle them.*

*The bishop says*

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.

**Amen.**

*The bishop and candidates return from the font.*

**CONFIRMATION**

*The bishop stands before the candidates 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 her hands towards them 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 the candidate by name*

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

*This may be followed by anointing with oil if this is your custom.*

*She then lays her hand on the head of each one, saying*

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

**Amen.**

*The bishop invites the congregation to pray.*

**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.**

You share, with all the members of the Church, the privilege of
praying to our Father, through his Son Jesus Christ, in the power of
the Holy Spirit.

So, let us pray for the whole world, which is being renewed by Christ,
the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

**PRAYING TO BE GENEROUS AND VISIBLE PEOPLE OF JESUS CHRIST**

Jesus said, “I have come that you might have life, and life in all its fulness.”

We believe that we are called to be generous and visible people of Jesus

Christ, fully alive in him, discovering together his transforming presence in our lives and in every community.

So, in Jesus Christ we pray:

Inspire us to engage fully and courageously with the needs of our

communities, locally and globally.

Lord of our journey, **hear our prayer.**

Enable us to grow God’s church by finding disciples and nurturing

leaders.

Lord of our journey, **hear our prayer.**

Encourage us to deepen our commitment to God through word,

worship and prayer.

Lord of our journey, **hear our prayer.**

**We praise and thank you, God of the journey,**

**for all your gifts to us in the past.**

**We look to you**

**as fellow-traveller and faithful companion on the way ahead.**

**Shelter and protect us from all harm and anxiety;**

**give us grace to let go of all that holds us back;**

**and grant us courage to meet the new life you have promised us**

**in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**The Peace**

*The bishop says*

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.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

**OFFERTORY HYMN/SONG**

**The Liturgy of the Eucharist**

**Preparation of the Table** *– the following or another prayer*

Wise and gracious God,

you spread a table before us;

nourish your people

with the word of life and the bread of heaven. **Amen.**

**The Eucharistic 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.**

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 *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.**

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:

**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:

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

*Short Silence*

**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.**

***Or***

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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 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.**

**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**

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.

***Or***

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,**

**but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*The president and people receive communion.*

*Communicant members of all churches are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you do not wish to receive, you, as well as any children with you, are invited to come up with everyone else for a blessing. Please indicate that you would like a blessing by bowing your head and keeping your hands down.*

**HYMN/SONG/MUSIC during communion**

*Silence is kept.*

**Prayer after Communion**

*This or the Postcommunion Prayer for the day is said.*

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.**

**The Sending Out**

**Commission**

*The Bishop commissions the candidates and the whole congregation:*

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?
**W**i**th 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.**

Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of creation,

and sustain and renew the life of the earth?

**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**

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** *This or a seasonal 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.

**Amen.**

**HYMN/SONG**

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

**VOLUNTARY**

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*Please continue to pray*

*for the mission and ministry in our Diocese*

*and for*

*NN*

*NN*

*NN*

*who were confirmed today.*