



Service of Confirmation

and Holy Communion

with

The Bishop of Brixworth

February 1st 2015

St Andrew Whissendine



WELCOME to this service when we celebrate the Confirmation of **Olivia Mould, Imogen Mould, Emily Martin and Nicholas Martin**. Today they will affirm for themselves the promises made for them at their Baptism. As we gather to worship, please pray for them and us all on our faith journey.

We welcome the Rt Revd John Holbrook, Bishop of Brixworth to be with us. He will be joining us after the service for lunch – do stay too! Please join in the parts of the service written in **bold print**.

GREETING AND WELCOME

HYMN : **O God beyond all praising 363**

L Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
All **Blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

L There is one body and one spirit.
All **There is one hope to which we were called;**
L one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
All **one God and Father of all.**

L Peace be with you
All **and also with you.**

COLLECT

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Old Testament: Isaiah 6:1-8

At the end: *This is the Word of the Lord:* **Thanks be to God**

HYMN: **Spirit of the Living God 454**

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:22-40

Before the reading: Hear the Gospel..... *Glory to you O Lord*

After the reading: This is the Gospel of the Lord: *Praise to you, O Christ*

SERMON

Bishop John

HYMN:

Lord the light of your love 317

THE CONFIRMATION

THE PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

The candidates stand

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.

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.

The bishop says:

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

All Amen.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

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 again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe and trust in God 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.

HYMN: **O Jesus I have promised 372**

THE CONFIRMATION

The congregation remains standing. The candidates are presented.

L Our help is in the name of the Lord
All who has made heaven and earth.

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

The Bishop, extending his hands towards the candidates, 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 discernment and inner strength;
the Spirit of knowledge, holiness and awe. Amen.

Each candidate is addressed by name

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

The Bishop anoints each candidate.

He then lays his hands on the head of each, saying:

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

Those newly confirmed stand. 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.

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.

The Fishes Group – song

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Closing with:

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

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 us the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you.

OFFERTORY HYMN: For the beauty of the earth 137

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

The gifts of the people may be gathered and presented.

The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

All: All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The president says

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 always right to give you thanks,
God our Creator,
loving and faithful,
holy and strong.

You made us and the whole universe,
and filled your world with life.

You sent your Son to live among us,
Jesus our Saviour, Mary's child.

He suffered on the cross;
he died to save us from our sins;
he rose in glory from the dead.
You send your Spirit
to bring new life to the world,
and clothe us with power from on high.

And so we join the angels
to celebrate and sing:

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.

Father, on the night before he died,
Jesus shared a meal with his friends.

He took the bread, and thanked you.
He broke it, and gave it to them, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine.
He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you.
This is my blood, the new promise of God's unfailing love.
Do this to remember me.

Jesus Christ has died.

All: Jesus Christ has died.

Jesus Christ is risen.

All: Jesus Christ is risen.

Jesus Christ will come again.

All: Jesus Christ will come again.

Father, as we bring this bread and wine,
and remember his death and resurrection,
send your Holy Spirit,
that we who share these gifts
may be fed by Christ's body and his blood.

Pour your Spirit on us
that we may love one another,
work for the healing of the earth,
and share the good news of Jesus,
as we wait for his coming in glory.

For honour and praise belong to you, Father,
with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit:

one God, for ever and ever.

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 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.**

**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 the invitation to 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.

**We do not presume
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen.**

The congregation now comes to the altar rail to receive Communion or for a prayer of blessing. If you find this difficult, please tell one of the stewards, and Communion will be brought to you in your seat.

If you would prefer to receive a blessing rather than the bread and wine, it is helpful if you indicate this by bringing this booklet with you.

To sing during Communion:

**Take, O take me as I am,
Summon out what I shall be.
Set your seal upon my heart
And live in me. John Bell**

The president prays a short prayer after Communion, then we join in this prayer:

**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.**

THE SENDING OUT

CLOSING HYMN: I the Lord of sea and sky 235

THE BLESSING

The bishop says

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 DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen

The bishop may lead the newly confirmed through the church.

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