

CONFIRMATION SERVICE



**Sunday February 22nd 2009
at St Thomas' Brampton**

**led by the
Rt. Rev'd Jack Nicholls**

Welcome & Notices

Song: Light Of The World (Here I Am To Worship)

Greeting

The bishop greets the people

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be his kingdom, now and forever.

Amen.

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 (a prayer especially for this occasion).

The bishop introduces a period of silent prayer

Heavenly Father,

by the power of your Holy Spirit you give your faithful people new life in the water of baptism.

Guide and strengthen us by the same Spirit, that

we who are born again may serve you in faith and

love, and grow into the full stature of your Son,

Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you in the

unity of the Holy Spirit now and for ever.

Amen

Epistle Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:1 – 7

At the end the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: John 10:14 - 18

When the Gospel is announced the reader says:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end the reader says:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Song: May The Words of My Mouth

Presentation of the Candidates

The candidates are presented by the clergy, the bishop asks the candidates for baptism

Do you wish to be baptized?

I do.

The bishop asks the candidates for confirmation who have been baptized

Have you been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit?

I have.

To all candidates the bishop asks

Are you ready with your own mouth and from your own heart to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ?

I am.

Testimony by candidates may follow

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

A large candle is lit.

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 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 strength to continue in the Way. **Amen.**

All gather around the baptismery.

Praise God who made heaven and earth,

who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

We thank you, almighty God, for the gift of water to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life. Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through water you led the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land. In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us from the death of sin to newness of life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son, we baptize into his fellowship those who come to him in faith.

Now sanctify this water that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, they may be cleansed from sin and born again. Renewed in your image, may they walk by the light of faith and continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory, now and for ever.

Amen.

The bishop addresses the congregation

Let us affirm, together with these who are being baptized, our common faith in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

The president may say to each candidate(s)

N, is this your faith?

Each candidate answers in their own words, or

This is my faith.

The president or another minister baptises each candidate, saying

N, I baptize you
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

The president or another minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each candidate, saying
Christ claims you for his own.
Receive the sign of his cross.

The candidates for confirmation are invited to come forward to the font and sign themselves with water.

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**

*Songs: Indescribable, God Of This City, Be
Thou My Vision*

The bishop and candidates gather at the place of confirmation.

Confirmation

The bishop stands before those 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 the candidates 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 bishop addresses each candidate by name
N..... God has called you by name and made you
His own

He then lays his hand on the head of each, saying

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

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.**

Commission

The bishop invites members of the congregation to renew their discipleship:

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?

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 hearts through faith, that you may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit. **Amen.**

The Welcome and Peace

The bishop introduces the Peace

Once we were far off, but now in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near through the shedding of Christ's blood, for He is our peace.

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 by shaking hands and saying 'the peace of the Lord be with you'

Prayers: *Led by the newly confirmed*

Response at end of each prayer:

Your name be hallowed.

Your kingdom come.

Lord's Prayer

Song: How Great Is Our God

The Sending Out

The 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.**

The Dismissal:

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

The bishop leads the newly confirmed through the church.

All are invited to stay for refreshments following the service.

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