



Patronal Festival Service



**with Confirmation &
Holy Communion**

Sunday 21st July 2024

Presiding and Preaching
The Bishop of Thetford the Rt. Rev. Ian Bishop

Welcome and Introduction

Candidates being confirmed:

Joshua Williams

Samuel Parle

Zoe Morris

Steve Morris

Notices & Banns of Marriage

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 588 - *And can it be*

During which the Bishop, Ministers and Choir process

***And can it be that I should gain
an interest in the Saviour's blood!
Died he for me, who caused his pain!
For me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
Amazing love! How can it be
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?***

***'Tis mystery all! the Immortal dies:
Who can explore his strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries
to sound the depths of love divine!
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
let angel minds inquire no more.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
let angel minds inquire no more.***

***He left his Father's throne above
so free, so infinite his grace;
emptied himself of all but love,
and bled for Adam's helpless race;
'tis mercy all, immense and free,
for, O my God, it found out me.
'tis mercy all, immense and free,
for, O my God, it found out me.***

***Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
fast bound in sin and nature's night;
thine eye diffused a quickening ray;
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
my chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.
my chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.***

***No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him, is mine;
alive in him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ my own.
bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ my own.***

CHARLES WESLEY (1707-1788)

THE GREETING

The Bishop greets the people

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. 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

*The Bishop introduces a period of silent prayer with the words
Let us pray*

The Collect:

Almighty God,
from whom Margaret of Antioch gained courage
to claim the name of Christian
and to prefer your love to life itself:
grant that we who cherish her blessed memory
may share her pure and steadfast faith,
and win with her the palm of victory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

ALL-AGE TALK – Canon Simon

The Liturgy of the Word

Reading: Ephesians 2: 11 – end (Read by Kathryn)

Remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called ‘the uncircumcision’ by those who are called ‘the circumcision’ - a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands - remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, so that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So, he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So, then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God. built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN: 800 – *The Lord's my shepherd*

*The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
his goodness restores my soul.
And I will trust in you alone.
And I will trust in you alone,
for your endless mercy follows me,
your goodness will lead me home.*

*He guides my ways in righteousness,
and he anoints my head with oil,
and my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on his pure delights.
And I will trust in you alone.
And I will trust in you alone,
for your endless mercy follows me,
your goodness will lead me home.*

*And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
for you are with me, and your rod and staff
are the comfort I need to know.
And I will trust in you alone.
And I will trust in you alone,
for your endless mercy follows me,
your goodness will lead me home.*

Stuart Townend (b. 1963) based on Psalm 23

GOSPEL READING – Mark 6: 30-34, 53-end

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

The apostles returned from their mission. They gathered around Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the market-places, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON – Bishop Ian

The organist plays as the candidates move to the front pew and a Pascal candle is lit.

The Liturgy of Initiation

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

The Bishop asks the candidates for confirmation

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

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.

THE DECISION

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.

The Bishop:

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

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:

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.**

ANTHEM: Blest are the pure in heart – H. Walford Davies (1869-1941)

(During which the candidates stand at the chancel steps)

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 kneel as the Bishop addresses each candidate by name
Joshua, Samuel, Zoe & Steve*

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 – Canon Simon

Those who are baptised 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.

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION – Led by Gerda

(Please sit or kneel)

These responses may be used:

Lord, in your mercy,

Receive our prayer.

At the end:

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour 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 the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

DEACON: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

OFFERTORY HYMN: 678 – In Christ Alone

(During the hymn the bread & wine are brought forward and the table is prepared)

***In Christ alone my hope is found,
he is my light, my strength, my song;
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.***

***In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save:
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied
for every sin on him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.***

***There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine
bought with the precious blood of Christ.***

***No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from his hand;
till he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!***

Stuart Townend (b. 1963) and Keith Getty (b. 1974)

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

The Bishop:

Wise and gracious God, you spread a table before us;
Nourish your people with the word of life and the bread of heaven.
Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

(Please sit or kneel - The choir remain standing)

Choir:

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 thanks and praise.

The Bishop:

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.

For he is your living Word;
through him
you have created all
things from the beginning,
and formed us in your own image.

Through him you
have freed us from the slavery of sin,
giving him to be
born of a woman
and to die upon the cross;
you raised him from the dead
and exalted him
to your right hand on high.

Through him you
have sent upon us
your holy and life-giving Spirit,
and made us a people for your own possession.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company
of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever
praising you and singing:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna, in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, 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.

(A bell is rung)

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.

(A bell is rung)

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.

DEACON: 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***

(A bell is rung)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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 forever.
Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE 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 Agnus Dei

***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.***

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

THE CANDIDATES ARE INVITED TO COME AND STAND JUST IN FRONT OF THE ALTAR RAIL TO RECEIVE THEIR FIRST COMMUNION

Then the Bishop proceeds to the Chancel step

The Bishop:

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.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All are welcome to come forward to receive the bread and wine or a blessing.

It is helpful for us if you say your name when you come to the front.

During Communion an anthem is sung by the Choir and then a **HYMN** is sung. (Please remain seated)

ANTHEM: If ye love me – Philip Wilby (b. 1949)

COMMUNION HYMN: 609 – *Christ is the world's light*

***Christ is the world's light, he and none other:
born in our darkness, he became our brother;
if we have seen him, we have seen the Father:
Glory to God on high.***

***Christ is the world's peace, he and none other:
no one can serve him and despise a brother;
who else unites us, one in God the Father?
Glory to God on high.***

***Christ is the world's life, he and none other;
sold once for silver, murdered here, our brother.
He who redeems us, reigns with God the Father:
Glory to God on high.***

***Give God the glory, God and none other;
give God the glory, Spirit, Son and Father;
give God the glory, God in man my brother;
Glory to God on high.***

Fred Pratt Green (1903–2000)

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Bishop:

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.

HYMN: 719 – *Lord, the light of your love*

**Lord, the light of your love is shining,
in the midst of the darkness, shining;
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us,
set us free by the truth you now bring us.
Shine on me, shine on me.**

***Shine, Jesus, shine,
fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze,
set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word, Lord,
and let there be light.***

**Lord, I come to your awesome presence,
from the shadows into your radiance;
by the blood I may enter your brightness,
search me, try me, consume all my darkness.
Shine on me, shine on me.**

***Shine, Jesus, shine,
fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze,
set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word, Lord,
and let there be light.***

**As we gaze on your kingly brightness,
so our faces display your likeness,
ever changing from glory to glory;
mirrored here may our lives tell your story.
Shine on me, shine on me.**

***Shine, Jesus, shine,
fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze,
set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow,
flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your word, Lord,
and let there be light.***

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GIVING OF A LIGHTED CANDLE

When Joshua, Samuel, Zoe & Steve 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.

The Sending Out

THE BLESSING

The Bishop:

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

DEACON: Go in the light and peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

The Bishop leads the newly confirmed through the church to loud applause and other appropriately joyful and noisy greetings!!





***Thank you for joining us this morning for our
Patronal Festival Service.***

