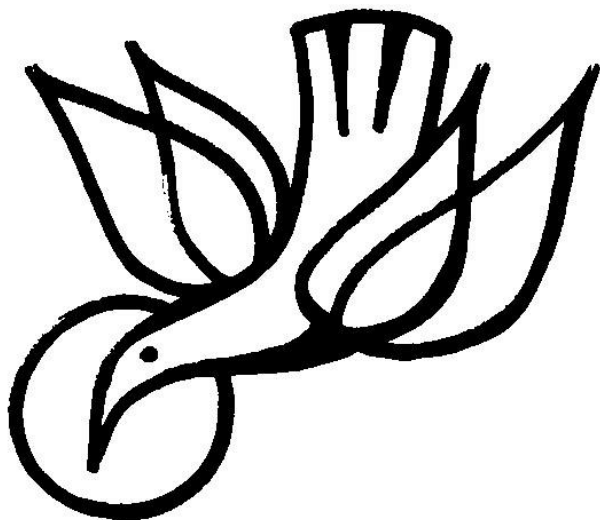


St Edburg's Church, Bicester



Baptism and Confirmation
at the Eucharist
Sunday, 20th September 2026
10.30 am

Please pray for those to be baptised or confirmed today.

To be Baptised and Confirmed:

Parvathy Prabhakaran Bindhu

George Ronnie Docherty-Burden

Jodie-Louise Victoria Docherty-Burden

Rose Elizabeth Hands

To be Confirmed:

Charlotte Rose Austin

Chloe Jean Austin

Leanne-Marie Austin

Lee David Austin

Sarah Kate Austin

Rees William Rodney Gidley

Gemma Rebecca Hands

Susan Jane Mitcheson

Eugene George William Prout

Stina Beatrice Sam

THE GATHERING

HYMN - God is here! As we his people

God is here! As we his people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us, as of old;
here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.

Lord of all, of Church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt,
keep us faithful to the gospel,
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!

Fred Pratt Green (1903 – 2000)
© 1979 Stainer & Bell Ltd

THE GREETING

The Bishop greets the people, using these words or other suitable words
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The Bishop introduces the service.

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.

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ
to save us from our sins,
to be our advocate in heaven,
and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith
firmly resolving to keep God's commandments
and to live in love and peace with all.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us, forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy on you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE COLLECT

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

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers
of your people who call upon you;
and grant that they may both perceive and know
what things they ought to do,
and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING

Philippians 1. 21 - end

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SONG – Be thou my vision O Lord of my heart

Be thou my vision O Lord of my heart,
nought 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.

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.

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 tower,
raise thou me heavenwards, O power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
thou my inheritance now and always,
thou and thou only, the first in my heart
high King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

O high King of heaven, when battle is done
grant heaven's joy to me, bright heaven's sun
Christ of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision thou ruler of all.

Hull / Byrne 30639

THE GOSPEL

Please stand

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 20. 1 - 16

At the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rt Revd Gavin Collins, Bishop of Dorchester
Please sit. A short silence is kept after the sermon.

THE LITURGY OF INITIATION

The presentation of the Candidates

The candidates stand and the Bishop asks the candidates for baptism:

Do you wish to be baptised?

I do.

The Bishop asks the candidates for confirmation who have been baptised:

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

I have.

The Bishop asks all the candidates:

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 adds to our number those whom he is calling. People of God, as we confirm these candidates today, will you welcome them and uphold them in their life in Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

THE DECISION

A 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, as you confirm your baptismal promises today, 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.

Amen.

Signing with the Cross

The Bishop makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of the candidates for baptism, saying:

Christ claims you for his own.

Receive the sign of his cross.

When the candidates for baptism have been signed, the Bishop says:

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ against sin, the world and the devil, and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness, and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

Amen.

Prayer over the Water

The Bishop, the ministers, and the candidates for baptism, together with the candidates for confirmation, gather at the baptismal font.

The Bishop stands before the water of baptism and says:

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 us.

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 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 Christ our Lord; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory, now and for ever.

Amen.

Profession of Faith

The Bishop addresses the congregation

Let us affirm, together those who are being confirmed, 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 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 BAPTISM

The Bishop may address the candidates for baptism by name, saying:

N, is this your faith?

and the candidate answers saying:

This is my faith.

The Bishop pours water on them, saying:

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

The Bishop says

May God, who has received you by baptism into his Church,
pour upon you the riches of his grace,
that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people
you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit,
and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory.
Amen.

Then 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, ministers and candidates return to the front of the nave.

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 forever. 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 Bishop addresses each candidate by name

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

The Bishop then lays his hand on the head of each, saying

Confirm, O Lord, your servant (N.) 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 addresses the congregation and candidates together.

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.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please sit.

These responses may be used:

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

The intercessions may conclude:

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

THE PEACE

Please stand. 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. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

HYMN - O Jesus, I have promised

O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou for ever near me,
my Master and my friend:
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel thee near me:
the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer,
and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear thee speaking
in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
O speak and make me listen,
thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, thou hast promised
to all who follow thee,
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be;
and, Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end:
O give me grace to follow,
my Master and my friend.

O let me see thy foot-marks,
and in them plant mine own;
my hope to follow duly
is in thy strength alone:
O guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end;
and then in heaven receive me,
my Saviour and my friend.

John Ernest Bode (1816-1874)

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

THE PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR, AND THE TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

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

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

Father, you made the world and love your creation.
You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.
His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death.
And so we gladly thank you,
with saints and angels 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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.
Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with Edburg and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The priest breaks the consecrated 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.**

THE GIVING OF COMMUNION

The Bishop 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.

The Church of England welcomes anyone from any Christian Church who receives communion to receive it here.

We welcome people of all ages and beliefs to come up to the altar to receive a blessing, please bring a service booklet with you to indicate that this is your preference.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand.

Eternal God,

whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Amen

THE SENDING OUT

Please sit for the NOTICES.

Song – Oh Lord my God!

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee
how great thou art! How great thou art!
then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee
how great thou art! How great thou art!

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.

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee
how great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee
how great thou art! How great thou art!

And when I think that God his Son no 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.

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee
how great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee
how great thou art! How great thou art!

When Christ shall come with shouts 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!

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee
how great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee
how great thou art! How great thou art!

Stuart K Hine Trust 14181

Giving of a Lighted Candle

The newly confirmed come forward.

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.

**Shine as a light in the world
to the glory of God the Father.**

THE BLESSING

Please stand for the BLESSING:

THE BLESSING

The Bishop uses the following 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.

*Common Worship: Christian Initiation material from which is included here, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2006.
CCLI licence 277595.*