

ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH, CANTERBURY

Sung Eucharist with Confirmation



The Sixth Sunday of Easter
Sunday 10th May 2026

Led by
The Right Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin
Bishop of Dover



An induction loop system for the hard of hearing is installed in our Church. Hearing aid users should adjust their aid to 'T'



Large print orders of service are available from the sidespersons. Please ask.



Toilet facilities are available in the Church Hall. Please ask a Sidesperson for directions.



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Welcome to our worship at St Stephen's today

We continue to celebrate the Easter season and Our Lord Jesus Christ's breaking of the bounds of suffering and death. We rejoice in his Easter victory and his living presence with us.

Today, we also present five people who are taking another step forward in their faith by coming before our bishop to affirm the promises made at their baptism and take their places as full members of the Church. By prayer and the laying on of hands, in the ancient way of the Church, our bishop will confirm them and we shall all pray with and for them that, strengthened by God's Holy Spirit, they may remain faithful to Christ for as long as they shall live.

Those being Confirmed today are:

Ali Amedhi

presented by Ann Rogers, Head Server, and Robert Mathews, PCC Secretary

Peter Cook

presented by Stephen Barker, Director of Music

Andrew Dinsmore

presented by the Revd Joy Dunton, Curate on placement

Rhea Kapur

presented by Mrs Margaret Horwood

Raglen Kapur

presented by Fr David

May God bless them and all who worship Christ in this place.



The Gathering

When the vestry bell is rung, we STAND for the hymn as the ministers enter

Alleluya! Alleluya!

NEH 103

ALLELUYA! Alleluya!

Hearts to heaven and voices raise;
Sing to God a hymn of gladness,
Sing to God a hymn of praise;
He who on the Cross a victim
For the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of glory,
Now is risen from the dead.

2 Christ is risen, Christ the first-fruits
Of the holy harvest field,
Which will all its full abundance
At his second coming yield;
Then the golden ears of harvest
Will their heads before him wave,
Ripened by his glorious sunshine
From the furrows of the grave.

3 Christ is risen, we are risen;
Shed upon us heavenly grace,
Rain, and dew, and gleams of glory
From the brightness of thy face;
That we, Lord, with hearts in heaven
Here on earth may fruitful be,
And by angel-hands be gathered,
And be ever safe with thee.

4 Alleluya! Alleluya!
Glory be to God on high;
To the Father, and the Saviour,
Who has gained the victory;
Glory to the Holy Spirit,
Fount of love and sanctity;
Alleluya! Alleluya!
To the Triune Majesty.

CHRISTOPHER WORDSWORTH (1807–85)

The Greeting

In the name of the Father,
And of the Son,
And of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The Bishop greets the people in church and also worshipping with us online and introduces the service.

Grace, Mercy and Peace
From God our Father
And the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Prayer of Preparation

The deacon introduces the prayers of penitence.

Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil
and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins,
and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength,
and not by the power of your resurrection.
In your mercy, forgive us.

All **Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived by the light of our own eyes,
as faithless and not believing.
In your mercy, forgive us.

All **Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived for this world alone,
and doubted our home in heaven.
In your mercy, forgive us.

All **Lord, hear us and help us.**

The bishop says

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon 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.

All **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

All **Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

Music: 'The Johannesburg Service'
JOHN BERTALOT (1931–2026)

The Collect

We remain STANDING.

All The lord be with you
And also with you

Let us Pray

Silence is kept for a moment.

God Our Redeemer,
You have delivered us from the power of darkness
And brought us into the kingdom of your Son;
Grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,
So, by his continual presence in us
he may raise us to eternal joy;
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 forever.

All **Amen.**

Please sit for the readings.



The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

Two readings from Holy Scripture follow.

*Acts 17.22–31
1 Peter 3.13–end*

At the end of each, the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

*We all STAND, and while the Gospel procession moves to the centre of the nave,
the choir sing Psalm 66.7–9, 16–18*

- 7 O praise our God ye people :
and make the voice of his praise to be heard;
- 8 Who holdeth our soul in life :
and suffereth not our feet to slip.
- 9 For thou O God hast proved us :
thou also hast tried us like as silver is tried.
- 16 If I incline unto wickedness with mine heart :
the Lord will not hear me.
- 17 But God hath heard me :
and considered the voice of my prayer.
- 18 Praised be God who hath not cast out my prayer :
nor turned his mercy from me.

Gospel Reading

The acclamation heralds the Gospel reading

Choir Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

All **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Choir Whoever would become my followers,
Let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

All **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

When the Gospel is announced the deacon says

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

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

John 14.15–21

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

The Rt Rev'd Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Bishop of Dover



The Liturgy of Initiation

Presentation of the Candidates

The bishop asks the candidates

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 Decision

The Paschal Candle is already 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 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 also strength to continue in the Way.

All **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?

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 to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in 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.**

Confirmation

We sing together the Veni creator as the bishop and candidates prepare for confirmation.

Come, Holy Ghost

NEH 138

COME, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire,
And lighten with celestial fire;
Thou the anointing Spirit art,
Who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart:

2 Thy blessèd unction from above
Is comfort, life, and fire of love;
Enable with perpetual light
The dullness of our blinded sight:

3 Anoint and cheer our soilèd face
With the abundance of thy grace:
Keep far our foes, give peace at home;
Where thou art guide no ill can come.

4 Teach us to know the Father, Son,
And thee, of Both, to be but One;
That through the ages all along
This may be our endless song,

Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

JOHN COSIN (1594–1672)
based on *Veni, creator spiritus*

The bishop stands before those who are to be confirmed and says

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

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

The bishop extends her 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.
All **Amen.**

The sponsors present the candidates to the bishop one by one.

The bishop addresses each candidate by name

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

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

All 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

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.**

Prayers of Intercession

The bishop introduces our period of prayer

The risen Christ is here in the midst of us.
We bring our prayers to him as Lord of the Church.

We SIT or KNEEL

This response may be used

All Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

And at the end

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



The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

We STAND.

The bishop introduces the Peace

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high has broken upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.78,79

All

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.

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine

We sing the Offertory Hymn

During the hymn, the gifts of the people are gathered and presented.

If you would like to make a donation towards the work of St Stephen's, a plate will be passed around for cash donations; if you are able to Gift Aid your donation please complete a giving envelope. There is a card reader for contactless contributions at the back of church and you can also make a donation by scanning this QR code on your smart phone.



O Jesus, I have promised

NEH 420

- 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 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.
- 4 O let me see thy footmarks,
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 BODE (1816–74)

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

Father, in Christ there has sprung up a light for the righteous;
accept the gifts we bring before you
and grant that Christ may shine in us
to the praise and glory of your name.

All **Amen.**

The bishop takes the bread and wine.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

All **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is indeed right and good,
our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
almighty and eternal Father,
and in these days of Easter,
to celebrate with joyful hearts
the memory of your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion
Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
Has conquered the powers of death and hell,
And restored in men and women the image of your glory.
He has placed them once more in paradise
And opened to them the gate of life eternal.

And so, in the joy of this Passover,
Earth and heaven resound with gladness,
While angels and archangels and the powers of all creation
Sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
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.

Deacon Great is the mystery of faith:

All **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 Blessed Mary, Stephen 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:

All **Amen.**

We SIT or KNEEL

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in His presence with us, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

All **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 president breaks the consecrated 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 is sung.

All **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 this or another invitation to communion

All Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us,
Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Please come to the table; all are welcome to receive the sacrament or if you would rather be given a blessing today, please cross your arms in front of you but, please, do come forward.

The president and people receive communion.

Authorized words of distribution are used and the communicant replies

Amen.

During the distribution a hymn and anthem are sung by the choir.

Holy Spirit, come, confirm us

NEH 140

HOLY Spirit, come, confirm us
In the truth that Christ makes known;
We have faith and understanding
Through your helping gifts alone.

2 Holy Spirit, come, console us,
Come as advocate to plead;
Loving Spirit stand beside us,
Grant in Christ the help we need.

3 Holy Spirit, come, renew us,
Come yourself to make us live;
Make us holy through your presence,
Holy through the gifts you give.

4 Holy Spirit, come, fulfill us,
You the love of Three in One;
Bring our lives to full completion
Through your work in us begun.

BRIAN FOLEY (1919–2000)

If ye love me

Music: THOMAS TALLIS (1505–1585)

Words: John 14:15–17

If ye love me keep my commandments,
and I will pray the Father,
and he shall give you another comforter,
that he may abide with you for ever;
even the spirit of truth.

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

The Post Communion prayer is said

God Our Father,
Whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life:
May we thirst for you,
The spring of life and source of goodness,
Through him who is alive and reigns, now and forever:

All **Amen.**

Together we pray:

All **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

Commission

We STAND and the bishop addresses those who have been confirmed 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?

All **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?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you proclaim by word and example
the good news of God in Christ?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people,
loving your neighbour as yourself?

All **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?

All **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.

All **Amen.**

Giving of a lighted candle

We sing the hymn, during which The bishop gives those newly confirmed a lighted candle.

Christ be our light

LONGING for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,

Light for the world to see.

Christ be our light!

Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has power to save us.

Make us your living voice.

3 Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others,

Shared until all are fed.

4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others,

Walls made of living stone.

5 Many the gifts, many the people,

Many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another,

Making your kingdom come.

Christ be our light!

Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

BERNADETTE FARRELL (b. 1957)

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.

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

The Blessing

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
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 the light and peace of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The Bishop processes out with those who have been confirmed, followed by the servers, clergy and choir.

Gigue Fugue BWV 577
J. S. BACH (1685–1750)

Please join us for fizz, cake, tea, coffee and fellowship as we celebrate in the church hall after this service.

There will be a retiring collection for the Bishop's Justice Fund.

Bishop's Justice Appeal

The retiring collection today will be for the **Bishop's Justice Appeal**. The Canterbury Diocese is unique in our work alongside refugees and asylum seekers, helping exiled people in need on both sides of the Channel, in Kent and Northern France. The Bishop's Justice Appeal supports the work of the Anglican Refugee Team in Northern France, in collaboration with United Society Partners in Gospel (USPG) and the Diocese of Europe. Through the dedicated and compassionate work of their, team, volunteers and partners, they help those who have been forced to leave homes, families, and livelihoods, offering a ministry of welcome, shelter, food, hospitality, and safety. You can make a cash donation in the bucket at the back of church, or by scanning this QR code.



Your gift today brings hope, help and healing. Thank you for your generosity.

Cover image: Detail from the East window of St Stephen's Church, Canterbury.

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