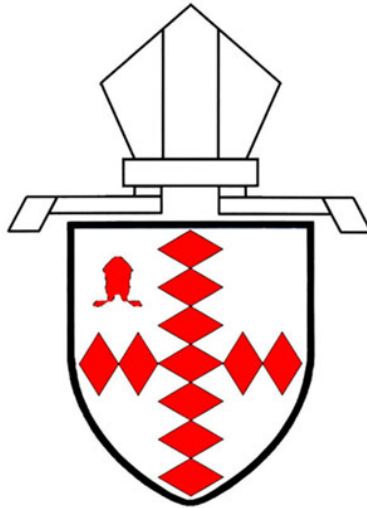


# ***Croydon Episcopal Area, Diocese of Southwark***



## **Service of Confirmation at Holy Communion**

**27th October 2024  
5pm**

**St Matthew's Croydon**

This evening we welcome The Bishop of Croydon, The Rt Revd Dr Rosemarie Mallett, and the families and friends of those who are to be confirmed at this service.

## **St Matthew's Croydon**

James Alexander

J'aime-Warren Lee

Hailey Mugisha

### **Welcome to St Matthew's Croydon**

During the service  
Please ensure your **mobile phone** is turned off.

A **collection** for the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Fund  
(Registered Charity Number 1075122) will be taken  
during the Offertory hymn. Please give generously.

Christians of all denominations are welcome to receive Communion  
if you usually do so in your own church.

*Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, material  
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2000*

*CCLI*

## Hymn (715)

Lord, for the years  
Your love has kept and guided,  
urged and inspired us,  
cheered us on our way,  
sought us and saved us,  
pardoned and provided:  
Lord of the years,  
we bring our thanks today.

Lord, for that Word,  
the Word of life which fires us,  
speaks to our hearts  
and sets our souls ablaze,  
teaches and trains,  
rebukes us and inspires us:  
Lord of the Word,  
receive your people's praise.

Lord, for our land,  
in this our generation,  
spirits oppressed by pleasure,  
wealth and care:  
for young and old,  
for commonwealth and nation,  
Lord of our land,  
be pleased to hear our prayer.

Lord, for our world;  
when we disown and doubt you,  
loveless in strength,  
and comfortless in pain,  
hungry and helpless,  
lost indeed without you:  
Lord of the world,  
we pray that Christ may reign.

Lord for ourselves;  
in living power remake us,  
self on the cross,  
and Christ upon the throne,  
past put behind us,  
for the future take us:  
Lord of our lives,  
to live for Christ alone.

*The bishop greets the people, using these or other suitable words*

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**All: Blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

There is one body and one spirit.

**All: There is one hope to which we were called;  
one Lord, one faith, one baptism,**

**All: one God and Father of all.**

Peace be with you

**All: and also with you.**

*Please sit as the bishop offers words of welcome.*

## **The Collect**

*The Collect is said, and all respond*

Merciful God

Teach us to be faithful in change and uncertainty

That trusting in your word

And obeying your will

We may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Readings**

Let us prepare ourselves for the Word of God as it comes to us in the reading of Holy Scripture.

**Our hearts and minds are open.**

## **First Reading**

*Jeremiah 31: 7-9*

For thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,

and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;

proclaim, give praise, and say,

'Save, O Lord, your people,

the remnant of Israel.'

<sup>8</sup>See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,

and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,

among them the blind and the lame,

those with child and those in labour, together;

a great company, they shall return here.

<sup>9</sup>With weeping they shall come,  
and with consolations  
I will lead them back,  
I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;  
for I have become a father to Israel,  
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

*At the end of which, the reader says*  
This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Song/Hymn (595)**

Be Thou my vision,  
O Lord of my heart,  
be all else but naught to me,  
save that Thou art;  
be Thou my best thought  
in the day and the night,  
both waking and sleeping,  
Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom,  
be Thou my true word,  
be Thou ever with me,  
and I with Thee, Lord;  
be Thou my great Father  
and I Thy true heir;  
be Thou in me dwelling,  
and I with Thee there.

Be Thou my breastplate,  
my sword for the fight;  
be Thou my whole armour,  
be Thou my true might;  
be Thou my soul's shelter,  
be Thou my strong tower:  
O raise Thou me heavenward,  
great Power of my power.

Riches I heed not,  
nor man's empty praise,  
be Thou mine inheritance  
now and always;  
be Thou and Thou only  
the first in my heart;  
O Sovereign of heaven,  
my treasure Thou art.

High King of Heaven,  
Thou heaven's bright Sun,  
O grant me its joys after  
victory is won;  
great Heart of my own heart,  
whatever befall,  
still be Thou my vision,  
O Ruler of all.

*Irish 8th century, trans. Mary Byrne (1880-1931) and Eleanor Hull (1860-1935)*  
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## **Second Reading**

*Hebrews 7: 23-End*

Furthermore, the former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; <sup>24</sup>but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues for ever. <sup>25</sup>Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

<sup>26</sup>For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. <sup>27</sup>Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. <sup>28</sup>For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect for ever.

*At the end of which, the reader says*  
This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Let us stand to greet the Gospel of Christ.*

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you**

## **The Gospel**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

**Glory to you O Lord**

*Mark 10: 46-end*

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. <sup>47</sup>When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' <sup>48</sup>Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' <sup>49</sup>Jesus stood still and said, 'Call him here.' And they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart; get up, he is calling you.' <sup>50</sup>So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. <sup>51</sup>Then Jesus said to him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' The blind man said to him, 'My teacher, let me see again.' <sup>52</sup>Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has made you well.' Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

## **Confirmation**

### **The Presentation of the Candidates**

*Please STAND. The candidates for confirmation stand and face the Bishop.*

*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 Bishop addresses the whole congregation*

Faith is the gift of God to his people. 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*

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**

## **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.**

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

Our help is in the name of the Lord

**All: who has made heaven and earth.**

Blessed be the name of the Lord

**All: now and for ever. Amen.**

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 bishop addresses each candidate by name*

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

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

**All: Amen.**

*The bishop anoints each candidate with oil*

*Bishop:* 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?

*Candidates:* **With the help of God, I will.**

*Bishop:* Will you persevere in resisting evil,  
and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

*Candidates:* **With the help of God, I will.**

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

*Candidates:* **With the help of God, I will.**

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

*Candidates:* **With the help of God, I will.**

*Bishop:* 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?

*Candidates:* **With the help of God, I will.**

*Bishop:* 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.**

*The congregation greet the newly confirmed with applause, and all return to their places.*

### **Prayers of Intercession**

*Please SIT or KNEEL for the intercessions. These responses may be used:*

Lord, in your mercy  
All hear our prayer.  
And at the end  
Merciful Father,

*All:* **accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

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

*All:* **and also with you.**

*A minister may say*

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## Hymn (748)

○ 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.

○ 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.

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

○ 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:  
○ give me grace to follow,  
my Master and my Friend.

○ let me see Thy foot-marks,  
and in them plant mine own:  
my hope to follow duly  
is in Thy strength alone.  
○ 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)*

## **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.**

Father, we give you thanks and praise  
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,  
through whom you have created all things;  
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;  
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,  
he lived on earth and went about among us;  
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;  
he put an end to death by dying for us;  
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;  
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

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

**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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
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.

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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever.

**All: Amen.**

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.**

*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 may be used as the bread is broken*

**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.**

**Jesus is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.  
All: Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*The president and people receive communion.*

## **Hymn (388)**

Speak, O Lord, as we come to you  
to receive the food of your holy word.  
Take your truth, plant it deep in us;  
shape and fashion us in your likeness,  
that the light of Christ might be seen today  
in our acts of love and deeds of faith.  
Speak, O Lord, and fulfil in us  
all your purposes, for your glory.

Teach us, Lord, full obedience,  
holy reverence, true humility.  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes  
in the radiance of your purity.  
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see  
your majestic love and authority.  
Words of power that can never fail;  
let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;  
help us grasp the heights of your plan for us.  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time  
that will echo down through eternity.  
And by grace we'll stand on your promises,  
and by faith we'll walk as you walk with us.  
Speak, O Lord, till your church is built  
and the earth is filled with your glory.

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

## **Post Communion prayer**

**All: Father of all,  
we give you thanks and praise,  
that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and brought us home.  
Dying and living, he declared your love,  
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.  
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;  
we who drink his cup bring life to others;  
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.  
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,  
so we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Hymn (721)

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us Thy humble dwelling,  
all Thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesu, Thou art all compassion,  
pure unbounded love Thou art;  
visit us with Thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit  
into every troubled breast;  
let us all in Thee inherit,  
let us find Thy promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning,  
Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning,  
set our hearts at liberty.

Come, almighty to deliver,  
let us all Thy grace receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
never more Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve Thee as Thy hosts above;  
pray, and praise Thee, without ceasing,  
glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish then Thy new creation:  
pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see Thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in Thee.  
Changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before Thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*



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.**

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

*All:* **Thanks be to God.**