

Affirmation Of Holy Baptism

for Confirmation
and Renewal

2006

Scottish Episcopal Church
Diocese of St Andrews
Dunkeld and Dunblane



What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is the Sacrament by which each person affirms for themselves the Christian faith into which they have been Baptised, and declares their intention to live a life of committed discipleship. This affirmation is Confirmed through prayer and the laying-on of hands by the Bishop, who prays that God will enable them through the Holy Spirit to live in the way of Jesus.

In the Episcopal Church, Confirmation is no longer understood as the 'completion' of Christian initiation, making someone a 'full member' of the Church, nor as a way to start receiving Holy Communion. This is because Baptism itself is complete initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's body the Church, at whatever age or stage of faith it takes place.

Every Baptised person still needs to grow as a disciple, whether they are a child or an adult. Confirmation is an important moment in their growth, when they reaffirming for themselves the promises made at Baptism and receive the strength and grace of the Holy Spirit for their life as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Please pray for the candidate(s) taking this step on their journey of faith and discipleship today, and participate in the service by joining in the parts marked in **bold** type.

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INTRODUCTION

Blessed be God,
the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
by whose great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATE(S)

Right Reverend Father in God,
our brother/sister N. has come
to make a deeper commitment
to our Lord Jesus Christ
by renewing his/her baptismal promises
and affirming his/her faith.

PRAYER

Let us pray for N and for ourselves.

**Eternal God, who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
keep your people, born of water and the Spirit,
faithful to their calling;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.**

TURNING TO CHRIST

The candidate(s) is/are addressed

The Christian life means turning from evil and turning to Christ.

Do you renounce evil?

I renounce evil.

Do you repent of sin?

I repent of sin.

Do you turn to Christ?

I turn to Christ.

Will you follow Christ?

I will follow Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The whole congregation is addressed

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in God the Son?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and 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 again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God 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.**

The candidate(s) is/are addressed

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

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

Amen.

COMMITMENT TO CHRISTIAN LIFE

The candidate(s) is/are addressed

N., as a disciple of Christ 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 proclaim the good news by word and deed,
serving Christ in all people?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you work for justice and peace,
honouring God in all Creation?

With the help of God, I will.

The whole congregation is addressed

This is the task of the Church.

**This is our task;
to live and work for the kingdom of God.**

THE LAYING-ON OF HANDS

God of mercy and love,
new birth by water and the Spirit is your gift,
a gift none can take away;
grant that your servants may grow
into the fullness of the stature of Christ.
Fill them with the joy of your presence.
Increase in them the fruit of your Spirit:
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of love, patience and gentleness,
the spirit of wonder and true holiness.

The Bishop lays hands on each candidate

Come, Creator Spirit,
rekindle in N. your gifts of grace,
to love and serve as a disciple of Christ.

Amen.

Renew her/his life in Christ
and bring to completion
all that your calling has begun.

Amen.

Anointing the candidate with the Oil of Chrism (a sign of the Holy Spirit)

Empower your disciple, N.,
to bring life to the world.

Amen.

At the conclusion of the laying-on of hands for all of the candidates,

Living God, sustain all your people
to be hope and strength to the world;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be honour and glory, now and for ever.

Amen.

THE SIGN OF PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

We meet in Christ's name.

Let us share his peace.

THE EUCHARIST

The Eucharist continues with the Liturgy of the Sacrament.

Defend, O Lord, 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.

trad. Confirmation prayer

Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ
For all the benefits Thou hast gained for me,
For all the pains and insults Thou hast borne for me.
O most merciful Redeemer, friend and brother,
May I know Thee more clearly,
Love thee more dearly,
Follow thee more nearly.

Prayer of St Richard of Chichester (mid 13th c.)