



Methodist
Church

The North Bedford Church Partnership



Church of
England

Putnoe Heights & St. Mark's Church

The Church of England and the
Methodist Church in Partnership

An Order of Service for Confirmation 12 March 2006

Candidates

**Sophie Grace Allen, Chloe Ellen Coppenhall, ,
Helen Lucy Morse, Jaana Liisa Swaby, Christopher
John Wallace, Colin John Wallace, Derrick Charles Wren.**

Whoever acknowledges me,
I will also acknowledge them
before my Father
who is in heaven
Matthew Chapter 10 Verse 32

THE PREPARATION

Minister: The Lord be with you

All: **And also with you**

Hymn

467 Morning Has broken

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father,
by the power of your Holy Spirit
you give to your faithful people
new life in the water of baptism.
Guide and strengthen us by that same Spirit,
that we who are born again
may serve you in faith and love,
and grow into the full stature of your Son
Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and forever. Amen.

Confession

Minister: *Invitation to the congregation to confess their sins*

All: Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you and against each other,
in thought and word and deed,
in the evil we have done
and the good we have not done,
through ignorance, 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.

The minister will declare the words of forgiveness

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

**Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

1
Ky - ri-e e - lei - son, Christ - te e - lei - son,
5
Ky - ri-e e - le - i - son.

The Offering

After the offering is collected it may be brought forward with the bread and wine. The people stand as it is presented and sing

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

Yours, Lord, is the greatness

Pauline Leeson
1
Yours, Lord, is the great-ness, the po-wer, the glo - ry, the
5
splen - dour and the ma - jes - ty, for ev' - ry - thing in heav'n and on earth is
8
yours. All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

Hymn

128 Father God I wonder

THE MINISTRY OF GOD'S WORD

The Collect

First and Second Reading

Genesis Chapter 17:1-7 & Romans Chapter 4:13-25

Reader: The reading is taken from

At the end of the reading

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading *all stand*

Reader: The Holy Gospel is taken from the Gospel according to Mark Chapter 8: Verses 31-38

All: Glory to Christ our Saviour.

At the end of the reading

Reader: This is the Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to Christ our Lord.

The Sermon

The Right Reverend Inwood
Bishop of Bedford

Hymn

And did those feet in ancient time
walk upon England's mountains green?
And was the holy lamb of God
on England's pleasant pastures seen?
And did the countenance divine
shine forth upon our clouded hills?
And was Jerusalem builded here
among those dark satanic mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold!
Bring me my arrows of desire!
Bring me my spear! O clouds, unfold!
Bring me my chariot of fire!
I shall not cease from mental fight,
nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,
till we have built Jerusalem
in England's green and pleasant land.

During the singing of this hymn the candidates are invited to come forward

The Baptism Vows

Our Lord Jesus Christ suffered death on the cross and rose again from the dead for the salvation of all people. Baptism is the outward sign by which we receive for ourselves what he has done for us: we are united with him in his death: we are granted the forgiveness of sins; we are raised with Christ to new life in the Spirit. You must affirm your allegiance to Christ and your rejection of all that is evil. Therefore I ask you these questions

All candidates respond

Minister: Do you turn to Christ?

Candidates: I turn to Christ

Minister: Do you repent of your sins?

Candidates: I repent of my sins

Minister: Do you renounce evil?

Candidates: I renounce evil

The Declaration of Faith

All Stand

Minister: You must now declare before God and also before God's Church the Christian faith into which you were baptised and in which you will live and grow.

Minister: Do you believe and trust in God the Father, who made all things?

Candidates: I believe and trust in him.

Minister: Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ, who redeemed the world?

Candidates: I believe and trust in him.

Minister: Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God?

Candidates: I believe and trust in the Holy Spirit.

Minister: This is the faith of the Church.

All: This is our faith.

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

Confirmation

Minister

At your baptism into Christ, God offered you the gifts of his grace and has constantly been at work in your life. In this moment God offers to strengthen you by his Spirit and invites you to respond.

The minister stretches out his hand towards the candidates

By your power and grace, Lord, strengthen these your servants that they may live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

Increase in them your gifts of grace,
and fill them with you Holy Spirit:
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding;
the Spirit of discernment and inward strength;
the Spirit of knowledge, holiness and awe

*Each candidate is brought forward and kneels for confirmation.
After confirmation each candidate replies **Amen.***

Confirm, O Lord, your servant *(Name)*.....
with your Holy Spirit.

After confirmation the congregation are invited to join in saying
**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. Amen.**

The Welcome

Minister: God has received you by baptism into his church

All: We welcome you into the Lord's Family

**We are members together of the body of Christ;
we are children of the same heavenly Father;
we are inheritors together of the kingdom of God.
We welcome you.**

You are all invited to exchange a welcome with the candidates and shake hands with those around you

The Prayers

The prayers may include the following or some other responses

Leader: Lord in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

The prayers end with

Leader: Merciful Father.

**All: Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer *sung*

**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.**

Hymn

31 Amazing Grace

THE MINISTRY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, it is our joy and salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

Through him you have created all things and made us in your own
image. Through his death on the cross and resurrection you freed us
from sin and opened the way to everlasting life.

Through him you have sent your Holy Spirit, calling us to be your
people, a community of faith.

Nothing can separate us from your love.

A seasonal prayer may follow

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:

**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 you, Lord God, creator and sustainer of the universe. Grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, who on the night that he was betrayed, took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,

‘Take, eat; this is my body which is broken for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.’

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup and gave you thanks, and gave it to them, saying,

‘This is my blood of the new covenant poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.’

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Send down your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us the body and blood of Christ. Unite us with him for ever and bring us with the whole creation to your eternal kingdom.

**Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the power of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you in songs of everlasting praise.
Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

Minister: The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

**All: Though we are many, we are one body
because we all share in one bread.**

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us your peace.**

Jesus, Lamb of God

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The first staff starts at measure 8 and contains the lyrics 'Je - sus, Lamb of God have mer - cy on us.' The second staff starts at measure 13 and contains the lyrics 'Je - sus, bearer of our sins, have mer - cy on us.' The third staff starts at measure 17 and contains the lyrics 'Je - sus, re - dee - mer of the world: Gra - nt us your peace.' The music is written in a simple, melodic style with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

Before the bread and wine is given we sit or kneel for the prayer of humble access

**Most merciful Lord, your love compels us to come in.
Our hands were unclean our hearts were unprepared;
we were not fit even to eat the crumbs
from under your table.
But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation,
and share your bread with sinners.
So cleanse us and feed us
with the precious body and blood
of your Son, that he may live in us and we in him;
and that we, with the whole company of Christ,
may sit and eat in your kingdom. Amen.**

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you, and his blood which was shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving. **Amen**

AFTER COMMUNION

The Prayer said after Communion

**We thank you Lord,
that you have fed us in this sacrament
with the body and blood of your Son
Jesus Christ
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet
prepared for all people.
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.**

Hymn

486 Now thank we all our God

The Dismissal

The minister will say a blessing before the final prayer

Minister: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: In the name of Christ. Amen.

Information about Communion

For communion to be received you will be invited forward. At the distribution the minister will say words of administration to which the communicant may reply, **AMEN**.

If you would like communion brought to you, please remain in your seat and inform the communion steward.

All are welcome to receive the bread and wine, but if for any reason you do not wish to receive, then please bring this order of service with you and hold it in your hand. The minister will then know not to offer the sacrament to you and will say a prayer of blessing instead.

Confirmation You do not have to be confirmed to take communion.

If you would like Gluten free bread. Please advise the Minister at the administration.

If you wish to partake only of the bread, take the chalice or glass as it is presented and then give it back without drinking.

If you wish to intinct (holding the wafer and dipping it into the chalice), please ensure you do not dip your finger into the wine.

Prayer for Christian Healing

In our services of Holy Communion everybody is offered the opportunity to receive a prayer for Christian Healing. If you wish to receive this prayer please cross your arms over your chest when you come forward to receive the bread and the wine. Before administering the bread and wine the Minister will pray the following prayer

'In the name of God and trusting in his might alone, receive Christ's healing touch to make you whole. May Christ bring you wholeness of body, mind, and spirit, deliver you from every evil, and give you his peace.'