

**St Nicholas Church
Shepperton**



**Confirmation Service
and
Parish Eucharist
Advent Sunday
10.00am
1st December 2024**

In the name of the Lord Jesus we welcome you today to St Nicholas Shepperton. A particularly warm welcome to our Confirmation candidates today – Sophie Green, Jago Lomas, William Lomas, Tori Waterhouse, Patsy Sorenti and Tipi Turner - as they come to confirm their faith before God today. A warm welcome also to their supporters who have joined us this morning from St Dunstan's Church, Feltham and the Parish of Brentford. For centuries, people have gathered on this site to support each other, to laugh and cry together, to sing and pray and to come before God and be nourished and sustained at the altar rail. It is our hope that you will leave here today having been given a glimpse of God's kingdom.

Please join in where indicated in bold.

THE GATHERING

Please stand, if you are able, at the entry of the ministers as we sing.

**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 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.**

The Greeting

The Bishop greets the people.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be his Kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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.

The Bishop introduces the service.

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

As we light the Advent Candle we all sing:

**Jesus, Your light is shining within us.
Let not my doubts and my darkness speak to me.
Jesus, Your light is shining within us.
Let my heart always welcome Your Love.**

The music continues quietly in the background.

The Candle is lit and a prayer is said together:

**Lord Jesus, Light of the world,
born in David's city of Bethlehem,
born like him to be a king:
Be born in our hearts at Christmas,
be king of our lives today. Amen.**

The chant is repeated.

Invitation to confession

When the Lord comes he will bring to light things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

We hold a moment or two of silence

Heavenly Father,
you have created a universe of light:
forgive us when we return to darkness.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
you are the light of the world:
cleanse and heal our blinded sight.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit,
you give us light in our hearts:
renew us in faith and love.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Almighty God,
who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
forgive you your sins,
open your eyes to God's truth,
strengthen you to do God's will
and give you the joy of his kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the
light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you
in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Please sit

First Reading - I Thessalonians 3.9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

If able to, we stand to sing

**Make way, make way, for Christ the King
in splendour arrives;
fling wide the gates and welcome him
into your lives.**

***Make way, make way, Make way, make way,
For the King of kings; For the King of kings;
Make way, make way, Make way, make way
And let his kingdom in!***

**He comes the broken hearts to heal,
the pris'ners to free;
the deaf shall hear, the lame shall dance,
the blind shall see.**

***Make way, make way, Make way, make way,
For the King of kings; For the King of kings;
Make way, make way, Make way, make way
And let his kingdom in!***

**And those who mourn with heavy hearts,
who weep and sigh,
with laughter, joy and royal crown
he'll beautify.**

***Make way, make way, Make way, make way,
For the King of kings; For the King of kings;
Make way, make way, Make way, make way
And let his kingdom in!***

**We call you now to worship him
as Lord of all,
to have no gods before him,
their thrones must fall.**

***Make way, make way, Make way, make way,
For the King of kings; For the King of kings;
Make way, make way, Make way, make way
And let his kingdom in!***

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 21.25-36

‘There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in a cloud” with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’

Then he told them a parable: ‘Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.’

“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon : Rt Revd Dr Emma Ineson, Bishop of Kensington

Presentation of the Candidates

The bishop asks the candidates for baptism

Do you wish to be baptized?

I do.

The bishop asks the candidates for confirmation

Have you been baptized 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 is adding to our number those whom he is calling.

People of God, will you welcome these candidates and uphold them in their life in Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

The Decision

The Bishop addresses all the candidates

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. 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.

To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him. Therefore I ask:

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Will you walk with Christ, the way, the truth and the life?
I will walk with Christ.

The Bishop says

May God, who has given you the desire to follow Christ,
Give you also strength to continue in the Way. **Amen**

Signing with the Cross

The minister 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.

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.**

Prayer over the Water

The ministers and candidates for baptism and confirmation gather at the baptismal font.

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 praise you, loving Father,

for the gift of your Son Jesus.

He was baptized in the River Jordan,

where your Spirit came upon him

and revealed him as the Son you love.

He sent his followers

to baptize all who turn to him.

Now, Father, we ask you to bless this water,

that those who are baptized in it

may be cleansed in the water of life,

and, filled with your Spirit,

may know that they are loved as your children,

safe in Christ for ever. **Amen.**

Profession of Faith

The minister 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?

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

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

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?

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.

Baptism

The minister may address the candidates for baptism by name, saying

Tori and Tipi is this your faith?

and the candidates answer

This is my faith

The minister pours water in turn 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 then sprinkles all the candidates with water from the font as a reminder of their own baptism, and all say

Almighty God,
we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with
all those 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 leads the candidates back to the place of Confirmation.

The congregation sits or kneels in prayer for the candidates.

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 for ever. Amen.

The Bishop extends her hands towards those to be confirmed, and says:

Almighty and ever living God,
you have given 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 candidates are presented to the Bishop, who anoints them with the Oil of Christ, saying:

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

Then she lays her hand on the head of each, saying

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

Amen.

After she has laid hands on all the candidates, 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**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Peace

The Bishop introduces the Peace with these words:

God will speak peace to his people,
to those who turn to him in their hearts.

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

A hymn is sung as the table is prepared and bread and wine are prepared.

A collection is taken during the hymn in aid of the Bishop's Discretionary Fund.

Hymn

**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.**

Chorus

***Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.***

**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.**

Chorus

**Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
Shared until all are fed.**

Chorus

**Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
Walls made of living stone.**

Chorus

**Many the gifts, many the people,
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
Making your kingdom come.**

Chorus

Prayer over the Gifts

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

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.

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For when he humbled himself to come among us in human flesh,
he fulfilled the plan you formed before the foundation of the world
to open for us the way of salvation.

Confident that your promise will be fulfilled,
we now watch for the day when Christ our Lord
will come again in glory.

And so we join our voices with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven
to proclaim your glory
for ever praising you and singing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name,
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

Please sit or kneel

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

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 Mary and Nicholas and 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. **Amen.**

As we await the coming of our Saviour, let us pray in the words Jesus taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the 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.**

Agnus Dei

We all join together to sing:

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

This is the Risen Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

Lord I am not worthy to receive you but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

You are warmly invited to feast at the Lord's table. If you are baptised and regularly take communion in your own church you are welcome to receive here at St Nicholas. If you don't receive communion, you are invited to receive a Blessing - please bring your service booklet with you. Do please follow the directions of the stewards during the distribution of Communion. The newly confirmed will receive Communion first.

Choir Anthem

Hymns during Communion

Hymn 67

**Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One is here.**

**Come, bow before Him now,
with reverence and fear.**

**In Him no sin is found,
we stand on holy ground.**

**Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One is here.**

**Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around;
He burns with holy fire,
with splendour He is crowned.
How awesome is the sight,
our radiant King of light!
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around.**

**Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place,
He comes to cleanse and heal,
to minister His grace.
No work too hard for Him,
in faith receive from Him;
Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place.**

Hymn 45

**As the deer pants for the water,
so my soul longs after You.
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship You.**

Chorus

***You alone are my strength, my shield,
To You alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship You.***

**I want You more than gold or silver,
Only You can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy-giver
And the apple of my eye.**

Chorus

**You're my Friend and You are my Brother,
even though you are a King.
I love You more than any other,
so much more than anything.**

Chorus

The priest says "let us pray" and prays the post-communion prayer.

Prayer After Communion

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

We say together:

**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.**

Please remain standing after the hymn.

Acclamation

With love and compassion

Come, Lord Jesus!

With judgement and mercy

Come, Lord Jesus!

In power and glory

Come, Lord Jesus!

In wisdom and truth

Come, Lord Jesus!

THE BLESSING

Christ the Son of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you and with all those whom you love and pray for now and always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

As we await our coming Saviour, go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God

If able to, we stand to sing as the ministers and candidates depart.

**In Christ alone, my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand**

**In Christ alone, who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
'Til on that cross as Jesus died
The love of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live**

**There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand**

**You are warmly invited to join us for coffee and cake
in the Parish Centre immediately after this service**

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***The collection today will be for the
Bishop of Kensington's Discretionary Fund.***

This Fund is used to help to support clergy, ordinands, licensed ministers and their families who find themselves in financial difficulty, and to assist them with their professional and pastoral development.

Thank you for your generosity.

