

## **Preface to Confirmation**

Anglicanism requires a public and personal profession of the Faith from every adult believer in Jesus Christ. Confirmation by a bishop is its liturgical expression. Confirmation is evident in Scripture: the Apostles prayed for, and laid their hands on those who had already been baptized (2 Timothy 1:6-7; Acts 8:14-17; 19:6).

In Confirmation, God, through the bishop's prayer for daily increase in the Holy Spirit, strengthens the believer for Christian life in the service of Christ and his kingdom. Grace is God's gift, and we pray that he will pour out his Holy Spirit on those who have already been made his children by adoption and grace in Baptism.

At the direction of the Bishop, and after public reaffirmation of their baptismal promises, those having made adult professions of faith in other Christian traditions (including those confirmed in other traditions) are *received* into the Anglican Church with prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop.

Confirmed believers who are already members of this Church (including those received from other traditions as above, those returning to active Christian discipleship after lapse, and those experiencing a renewal of Christian commitment or significant life transition) may also *reaffirm* the pledges made to Christ and his Church with prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop.

# The Order for Confirmation, or Laying on of Hands by the Bishop

*A hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung.*

*The people stand, and the Celebrant says the following, or the appointed seasonal greeting.*

*Bishop*           The Lord will pour out his Spirit upon all flesh,  
*People*           And your sons and daughters shall prophesy.

*Bishop*           Your old men shall dream dreams,  
*People*           and your young men shall see visions.

*Bishop*           You shall know that the Lord is in the midst of his people,  
*People*           that he is the Lord and there is none else.

*Bishop*           And it shall come to pass  
*People*           that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

*Bishop*           The Lord be with you.  
*People*           And with your spirit.  
*Bishop*           Let us pray.

*The Celebrant prays the Collect of the Day.*

*People*           Amen.

*The liturgy continues with the lessons as directed in the Eucharist. Following the Nicene Creed, the candidates are presented.*

## **The Presentation, Exhortation and Examination**

*Only a bishop may confirm. The Bishop customarily sits in a chair in front of the Altar Table. The candidates and presenters stand facing the Bishop as their presenters say*

*Presenters*       Right Reverend Father in God, we present *these persons* to receive the laying on of hands.

*Bishop*           *Have they* been adequately prepared?  
*Presenters*       *They have.*

*The Bishop then shall say*

Dearly beloved, it is essential that those who wish to be Confirmed in this Church must publicly confess Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior; become his disciple; know and affirm the Nicene Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments; and have received instruction in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments and the Catechism of the Church. God's grace is imparted in baptism where we are made God's children by adoption and given the Holy Spirit. Through the power of the Spirit, manifested in gifts and fruit, we are enabled to be God's people for the sake of the world.

Now, *these candidates* here *desire* publicly to confess *their* faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and *their* commitment to follow him as Lord. *They* also *desire* the strengthening of grace through the laying on of hands that the Holy Spirit may fill *them* more and more for *their* ministry in the Church and in the world.

*The Bishop then addresses the candidates*

Do you, here in the presence of God and the Church, renew the solemn promises and vows made at your Baptism and commit to keep them?

*Candidates* I do.

*Bishop* Do you renounce the Devil and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

*Candidates* I renounce them.

*Bishop* Do you renounce the empty promises and deadly deceits of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

*Candidates* I renounce them.

*Bishop* Do you renounce the sinful desires of the flesh that draw you from the love of God?

*Candidates* I renounce them.

*Bishop* Do you turn to Jesus Christ and confess him as your Lord and Savior?

*Candidates* I do.

*Bishop* Do you joyfully receive the Christian Faith, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

*Candidates* I do.

*Bishop* Will you obediently keep God's holy will and commandments, and walk in them all the days of your life?

*Candidates* I will, the Lord being my helper.

*The Bishop then addresses the congregation, first inviting them to stand.*

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support *these persons* in *their* life in Christ?

*The Congregation responds*

We will.

## **Prayer and the Laying on of Hands**

*The Bishop stands and says*

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we ask you to strengthen *these* your *servants* for witness and ministry, through the power of your Holy Spirit. Daily increase in *them* the gift of your grace and the fruit of your Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## **For Confirmation**

*Each confirmand kneels in front of the Bishop. The Bishop, then laying his hands upon the person's head, shall pray*

Defend, O Lord, this your servant *N.* with your heavenly grace, that *he* may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more until *he* comes into the fullness of your everlasting kingdom.

*People* Amen.

*Or this*

Strengthen, O Lord, your servant *N.* with your Holy Spirit; empower *him* for your service; and sustain *him* all the days of *his* life.

*People* Amen.

## For Reception

*Those having made adult professions of faith in other Christian traditions are Received with the laying on of hands as follows:*

N., we recognize you as a member of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church; and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion. God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and empower you.

People            Amen.

## For Reaffirmation

*The Bishop may also accept with the laying on of hands the Reaffirmation of vows by a person who has previously been Confirmed or Received in this Church.*

N., the Holy Spirit, who has begun a good work in you, direct and empower you by his grace, that you may continue in the service of our Lord Jesus Christ all the days of your life.

People            Amen.

*The Bishop may make the sign of the Cross with the Oil of Chrism on the forehead of any receiving the laying on of hands, and may say*

N., I sign you with the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*The Bishop then says, with all the People standing*

Almighty and everliving God, let your fatherly hand be upon *these* your *servants*; let your Holy Spirit ever be with *them*; and so lead *them* in the knowledge and obedience of your Holy Word, that *they* may faithfully serve you in this life, and joyfully dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*The Prayers of the People, Confession, and Absolution follow.*

*The Peace is now exchanged*

Bishop            The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People            And with your spirit.

*At the conclusion of the Liturgy, the following blessing may be used.*

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; fight the good fight of faith; that you may finish your course with joy; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

## **Additional Directions**

If desired, the hymn *Gloria in excelsis* (or another song of praise) may be sung immediately after the opening versicles and before the salutation, “The Lord be with you.”

It is particularly appropriate that parents and godparents be presenters.

If there is no celebration of the Holy Eucharist, the liturgy continues with the Lord’s Prayer. Other appropriate prayers may be added.