

# Swindon Old Town Partnership of Churches



## *Service of Confirmation*

**Sunday 31st May 2026, 10am  
Christ Church Swindon**

**The Revd Rach Collins  
Minister of Bath Road**

**The Revd Geoff Glead  
Associate Minister of  
Immanuel with Highworth**

**The Rt Revd Neil Warwick  
Bishop of Swindon  
& Acting Bishop of Bristol**

*When instructions are given during worship to sit or stand these are only invitations. Please feel free to adopt the position that you find most helpful and comfortable as we worship God together.*

*The Revd Norma McKemey, Associate Minister, Christ Church Swindon welcomes the congregation and gives any announcements.*

*Norma says:*

*“Love never wrongs anyone – hence love is the fulfilment of the Law”          Romans 13: 10*

And our partnership prayer

**All: Loving God, we are one in Jesus Christ.**

**Help us to live out this unity in our Partnership through mission,**

**so that those around us may turn to Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.**

**In His name we pray. Amen**

**HYMN: O worship the King (551 omit v.3 & 4)**

**O worship the King  
all glorious above;  
O gratefully sing  
his pow’r and his love:  
our shield and defender,  
the Ancient of Days,  
pavilioned in splendour  
and girded with praise.**

**O tell of his might,  
O sing of his grace.  
whose robe is the light,  
whose canopy space;  
his chariots of wrath  
the deep thunder-clouds form,  
and dark is his path  
on the wings of the storm.**

**Frail children of dust,  
and feeble as frail,  
in thee do we trust,  
nor find thee to fail;  
thy mercies how tender,  
how firm to the end!  
Our maker, defender,  
redeemer, and friend.**

**O measureless might,  
ineffable love,  
while angels delight  
to hymn thee above,  
thy humbler creation,  
though feeble their lays,  
with true adoration  
shall sing to thy praise.**

*Robert Grant (1779-1838), based on Psalm 104*

## **OPENING PRAYER**

*Rach says:*

Sisters and brothers, by grace, through the sign and seal of Baptism, and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we become God's people, the Church.

In Confirmation we are strengthened by the Holy Spirit that we may remain in Christ for ever as his faithful servants and witnesses. Let us pray:

Living God,  
may all who are baptised into Christ  
be sustained by the Holy Spirit,  
that through lives of faith and love  
your grace may be known  
and your name honoured;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

## **BIBLE READINGS**

### **Psalm 95:1-7**

(Read by Yetunde Koya, Bath Road Methodist Church)

### **A Call to Worship and Obedience**

O come, let us sing to the LORD;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!  
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

For the LORD is a great God,  
and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth;  
the heights of the mountains are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it,  
and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

O come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture,  
and the sheep of his hand.

*At the end of it the reader says:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL READING

Matthew 4:18-23 (read by Paul Andrews, Christ Church)

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says:*

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew  
Hear the Gospel of Christ.

**All Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

As Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

This is the Gospel of Christ.  
**All Praise to Christ our Lord.**

**SERMON                      Revd. Geoff Gleed**

**HYMN: Will you come and follow me (752)**

**Will you come and follow me  
if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know,  
and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown  
in you, and you in me?**

**Will you leave yourself behind  
If I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind,  
and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
should your life attract or scare,  
will you let me answer prayer  
in you and you in me?**

**Will you let the blinded see  
If I but call your name?  
Will you set the pris'ners free,  
and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean  
and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean  
in you and you in me?**

**Will you love the 'you' you hide  
if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
to reshape the world around  
through my sight and touch and sound  
in you and you in me?**

**Lord, your summons echoes true  
when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you,  
and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
In you, and you in me.**

*John L Bell (b.1949) and Graham Maule (b. 1958) © 1997 WGRG, Iona Community*

## **THE LITURGY OF INITIATION**

### **PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES**

*All the candidates stand. Rach addresses them.*

Do you seek new faith and life in Christ?

**Candidates: I do.**

*Rach addresses the whole congregation*

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

**All We will, with the help of God.**

## **THE DECISION**

*Rach says to all the candidates*

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into the  
marvellous light. Today, the Spirit offers to strengthen  
you and invites you to respond.

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

Do you repent of your sins?

**Candidates I repent of my sins**

Do you turn to Christ?

**Candidates I turn to Christ.**

*Rach addresses the congregation*

Let us affirm, together with these who are being confirmed, our common faith in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

**All I believe and trust in God the Father.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**All I believe and trust in God the Son.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

**All I believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**All This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

## THE CONFIRMATION

*All the Confirming Ministers stand before those who are to be confirmed*

*Geoff 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.**

*Rach, Geoff and Bishop Neil extend their hands towards those to be confirmed and say together*

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.**

*Rach says to each candidate*

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

*Rach, Geoff and Bishop Neil then each lay hands on the head of that candidate, saying together*

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

*Bishop Neil may anoint those who have been confirmed with the oil of chrism, saying*

*N, you are sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.***

## **RECEPTION INTO THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND**

*The candidate to be received into the Church of England stands before Bishop Neil who says*

*Jennifer, you are here to be received into the communion of the Church of England.*

Do you acknowledge the Church of England as part of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church?

*The candidate replies*

**I do.**

Do you accept the teaching, discipline and authority of the Church of England?

**I do.**

Will you take part with us in worship and mission?  
**I will.**

*Bishop Neil prays*

Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all who have been baptised 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.

**All Amen.**

*Bishop Neil extends hands towards Jennifer and says*

Almighty God of mercy and love,  
by one Spirit we have all been baptised into one body and made to drink of the one Spirit; we thank you for the gifts you have given to this your servant for the building up of the body of Christ.

Grant that they may continue in the life of the Spirit and walk with us in the light and obedience of Christ.

By the same Spirit,  
fill the whole Church with your overflowing love;  
give us knowledge and discernment of your will,  
and steadfastness in your service,  
until we all come to the unity of the faith,  
to the measure of the full stature of Christ,  
through whom we make our prayer.

**All Amen.**

*Bishop Neil takes the candidate's hand and says*

*Jennifer we recognise you as a member of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church; and we receive you into the communion of the Church of England in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

**All Amen.**

## **THE WELCOME INTO THE FELLOWSHIP OF FAITH**

*Rach will explain as the Ministers, with representatives of the local church, extend the hand of fellowship to all the candidates.*

*Rach invites the congregation to pray for them*

**All Defend, O Lord, these your servants  
with your heavenly grace,  
that they may continue yours for ever,  
and daily increase in them your Holy Spirit  
more and more until they come  
to your everlasting kingdom. Amen.**

## **THE COMMISSIONING**

*Geoff addresses all the candidates*

All who are baptised 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?

*The candidates reply*

**I will, with the help of God.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord.

*The candidates reply*

**I will, with the help of God.**

*Rach*

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

*The candidates reply*

**I will, with the help of God.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people loving your neighbour as yourself?

*The candidates reply*

**I will, with the help of God.**

*Bishop Neil*

In the name of Christ will you pray for the world and its people, defend the weak, and seek justice and peace?

*The candidates reply*

**I will, with the help of God.**

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.**

## **INTERCESSIONS**

*led by Liz Gibney, Immanuel URC*

*During the prayers the following response may be used:*

Leader Lord in your mercy

**All Hear our prayer**

## **THE PEACE**

*Rach*

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.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

## **HYMN: O Jesus I have promised (503)**

**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 the 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 foot-marks,  
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 heav'n receive me,  
my Saviour and my friend.

*John Ernest Bode (1816-1874)*

## THE LITURGY OF COMMUNION led by +Neil

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.**

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;  
in your love you made us for yourself.  
When we turned away you did not reject us,  
but came to meet us in your Son.

**All You embraced us as your children  
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life  
that we might live in him and he in us.

**All He opened his arms of love upon the cross  
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed,  
at supper with his friends he took bread,  
and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

**All Father, we do this in remembrance of him:  
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,  
he gave you thanks, and said:  
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new  
covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness  
of sins; do this in remembrance of me.

**All Father, we do this in remembrance of him:  
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in  
glory, send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this  
wine may be to us the body and blood of your dear  
Son.

**All As we eat and drink these holy gifts  
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world,  
we offer you this sacrifice of praise and lift our voice  
to join the eternal song of heaven:

*We sing*

**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.**

*Sit or kneel for the Lord's Prayer*

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.**

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.**

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

*The Bishop and assisting ministers receive communion and then move to the places for distribution. Please come forward for communion or a blessing when directed.*

## THE GIVING OF COMMUNION

*If it is your custom to receive communion in your own church, you are welcome to receive bread and wine today, whatever your denomination.*

*You may choose not to drink from the common cup. To receive bread alone is a valid expression of sharing in communion.*

*Alternatively, if you would prefer a blessing, please bring this order of service with you to indicate that.*

*During the distribution, the choir will sing "There's a wideness in God's mercy (Bevan).*

*Following the Anthem, whilst remaining seated, please join in hymn 304 "I come with joy"*

**I come with joy, a child of God,  
forgiven, loved and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall,  
in love laid down for me.**

**I come with Christians far and near  
to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love  
in Christ's communion bread.**

**As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,  
each proud division ends.  
The love that made us, makes us one,  
and strangers now are friends.**

**The Spirit of the risen Christ,  
unseen, but ever near,  
is in such friendship better known,  
alive among us here.**

**Together met, together bound  
by all that God has done,  
we'll go with joy, to give the world  
the love that makes us one.**

*Brian A Wren (b. 1936)*  
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## THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*Bishop Neil*

Almighty and eternal God,  
you have revealed yourself as Father, Son and Holy  
Spirit, and live and reign in the perfect unity of love:  
hold us firm in this faith, that we may know you in all  
your ways and evermore rejoice in your eternal  
glory, who are three Persons yet one God,  
now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

## **THE BLESSING**

*Bishop Neil*

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.**

**Hymn: I the Lord of sea and sky (332)**

**I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin, my hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?**

***Chorus Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.***

**I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?  
*Chorus***

**I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?  
*Chorus***

*Dan Schutte, based on Isaiah 6  
© 1981 Daniel L. Schutte and New Dawn Music*

## **THE SENDING OUT**

*During the hymn, a lighted candle will be given to the candidates who will carry it out in the final procession.*

*Rach*

You have received this light,  
for you belong to Christ, the Light of the world.

**All Let your light shine before others,  
so that they may see your good works  
and give glory to your Father in heaven.**

*Geoff*

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

**All Thanks be to God**

*Please join us to continue in our fellowship after the service over refreshments which will be served in the community centre*

*CCLI no: 267457*