



The Diocese of  
**Southwark**

**DIOCESAN  
CONFIRMATION SERVICE**

**THE EVE OF PENTECOST  
SATURDAY 23 MAY 2026  
4.00PM**

# WELCOME TO SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL

A MEMBER OF THE



## ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Please ensure that all electronic devices are switched to silent.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

You are welcome to take photographs in the Cathedral but please do not take any photographs during the service.

## HEARING LOOP

Please switch your device to 'T'.

## POSTURE

The instructions in this booklet are not prescriptive. Please do sit if that is more appropriate for you.

## DONATIONS



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## PRESIDENT & PREACHER

The Bishop of Croydon, The Rt Rev'd Dr Rosemarie Mallett

## DEACON OF THE WORD

The Rev'd Manuela Schmucki

## DEACON OF THE RITE

Canon Kathryn Fleming, Precentor

## CHOIR & MUSICIANS

The Cathedral Choir  
Helen Smee, Director of Music  
Steven Grahl, Organist

## SETTING

Missa brevis in D, KV. 194  
W. A. Mozart (1756-1791)

# WELCOME

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Welcome to Southwark Cathedral. It is very good to have you with us. We welcome especially the candidates for Baptism and Confirmation, along with their families, friends and clergy. Please pray for the candidates and the parishes and communities from which they come.

## **ALL SAINTS, BLACKHEATH**

Kyle Thomas Fox

## **CHRIST CHURCH, CAMBERWELL**

Jessica Anne Case (Conditional Baptism & Confirmation)

Lydia Mormen (Conditional Baptism & Confirmation)

Chisomo Phiri

Isabella Grace Whiteway

## **EMANUEL SCHOOL, BATTERSEA**

Matilde Koto Mazzanti

## **HOLY TRINITY, ROEHAMPTON**

Fereydoun Gharedaghi (Baptism & Confirmation)

William Seward (Baptism & Confirmation)

## **ST JAMES, CLAPHAM**

Michelle Ngozi Hope Ezinwa

Sean Obinna Ezinwa

Uchechukwu Michael Junior Ezinwa

## **ST JOHN, HURST GREEN**

James Conroy

Patricia Ann Forster

Gwenda Wilkie

**ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM with ST ANDREW, PECKHAM**

Chimamanda Chimdiya Chanelle Okoro

Roj Kasso Annan

Constance Oduro

David Uyi Ogbondah

Rita Chinyere Ogbondah

Countess Esther Olanipekun

Divine Alexa Wichi

**ST MARY, OXTED**

Ryan Alexander Williamson

**ST MARGARET, LEE**

Charlotte Matilda Ann Joy

Samuel James Joy

**ST MARK & ST SWITHUN, PURLEY**

Benjamin Michael Dutton

Elizabeth Grace Margaret Dutton

Laura Frances Dutton

Aoife Mary Margaret Keating

Francesca Beth Tarpey

Jill Taylor

**ST MICHAEL, EAST WICKHAM**

David Li

**THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST SAVIOUR & ST MARY OVERIE, SOUTHWARK**

Lyonna Aset Williamson

# DIOCESAN CONFIRMATION SERVICE

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*Please stand as the Procession enters.*

## ENTRANCE HYMN

---

Come down, O Love divine,  
Seek thou this soul of mine,  
And visit it with thine own ardour glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near,  
Within my heart appear,  
And kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,  
Till earthly passions turn  
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;  
And let thy glorious light  
Shine ever on my sight,  
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity  
Mine outward vesture be,  
And lowliness become mine inner clothing;  
True lowliness of heart,  
Which takes the humbler part,  
And o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,  
With which the soul will long,  
Shall far outpass the power of human telling;  
For none can guess its grace,  
Till we become the place  
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

**TUNE: DOWN AMPNEY**

R. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

**TEXT:**

Italian, Bianco da Siena (d. 1434)  
tr. R. F. Littledale (1833-1890), altd.

## THE GATHERING

---

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**All He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Blessèd be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**All Blessèd be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

There is one body and one spirit,

**All there is one hope to which we were called,**

one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

**All one God and Father of all.**

Peace be with you

**All and also with you.**

*The Bishop welcomes the candidates and the congregation.*

## THE COLLECT

---

Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

Heavenly Father,

by the power of your Holy Spirit

you give your faithful people new life in the water of baptism.

Guide and strengthen us by the 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 in the unity of the Holy Spirit

now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

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*Please be seated.*

## THE FIRST READING

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**Acts 2.1-21**

*Read by a Confirmation candidate*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.'

All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

"In the last days it will be, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see visions,  
and your old men shall dream dreams.

Even upon my slaves, both men and women,  
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;  
and they shall prophesy.  
And I will show portents in the heaven above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.  
The sun shall be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood,  
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.  
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

## THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

---

*Please stand.*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

All Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

This is my Son, the Belovèd,  
with whom I am well pleased.

All Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

## THE GOSPEL

---

**John 15.26-27; 16.4b-15**

**All** The Lord be with you  
and also with you.

**All** Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said, 'When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them.

'I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, "Where are you going?" But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgement: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.'

**All** This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated after the opening prayer.*

## THE HOMILY

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The Bishop of Croydon

# THE LITURGY OF INITIATION

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## PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

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*The candidates are presented by their clergy or other parish representative, standing before the Bishop.*

*When they have been presented, the Bishop asks the candidates for Baptism and Conditional Baptism:*

Do you wish to be baptised?  
**Baptisands** I do.

*The Bishop asks the candidates for Confirmation:*

Have you been baptised in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit?  
**Confirmands** I have.

*The Bishop then asks all the candidates:*

Are you ready with your own mouth and from your own heart to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ?  
**Candidates** I am.

*Please stand. 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?  
**All** With the help of God, we will.

*The congregation sits. The candidates remain standing.*

## THE DECISION

---

*The Bishop addresses the candidates.*

We all wander far from God and lose our way:  
Christ comes to find us and welcomes us home.  
In baptism we respond to his call.

Therefore I ask:

**Candidates** Do you turn away from sin?  
I do.

**Candidates** Do you reject evil?  
I do.

**Candidates** Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?  
I do.

**Candidates** Do you trust in him as Lord?  
I do.

*The Bishop stands at the Font.*

## THE SIGNING WITH THE CROSS

---

*The Bishop makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each candidate for Baptism and Conditional Baptism, anointing them with the Oil of Baptism.*

*The Bishop says:*

Christ claims you for his own.

Receive the sign of his cross.

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

**All** **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.**

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,

restore in you the image of his glory,

and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

**All** **Amen.**

## PRAYER OVER THE WATER

---

*Please stand.*

**All** Praise God who made heaven and earth,  
**who keeps his promise for ever.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**All** **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Blessèd are you, sovereign God of all,  
to you be glory and praise for ever.  
You are our light and our salvation.  
From the deep waters of death  
you have raised your Son to life in triumph.  
Grant that all who have been born anew by water and the Spirit,  
may daily be renewed in your image,  
walk by the light of faith,  
and serve you in newness of life;  
through your anointed Son, Jesus Christ,  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit  
we lift our voices of praise.

Blessèd be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**All** **Blessèd be God for ever.**

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

---

*The Bishop 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?  
**All** **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?  
**All** **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?

**All** 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.

*Please be seated.*

## **BAPTISM**

---

*The candidates for Baptism and Conditional Baptism stand before the Bishop.*

*The Bishop baptises them each in turn, saying:*

N, I baptise you  
in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**All** Amen.

*or, if the candidate is being conditionally baptised:*

N, if you have not already been baptised,  
I baptise you  
in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**All** Amen.

*After the candidates have been baptised, the Bishop says:*

May God, who has received you by baptism into his Church,  
pour upon you the riches of his grace,  
that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people  
you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit,  
and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory.

**All** Amen.

*The candidates who have previously been baptised are sprinkled with holy water by the Bishop in remembrance of their baptism.*

*Then the Bishop says:*

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.**

## **CONFIRMATION**

---

*The Bishop stands before those who are to be confirmed, and says:*

**All**      Our help is in the name of the Lord  
            **who has made heaven and earth.**

**All**      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 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.**

*The Bishop moves around the Tower Space to confirm the Candidates,  
addressing each of them by name:*

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

*The Bishop then lays hands on the head of each, saying:*

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

*The Bishop anoints each candidate with the Oil of Chrism.*

*Then, the Bishop invites the congregation to pray for all those who have been confirmed.*

Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

**All**     **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 EUCHARIST**

---

*Please stand.*

### **THE PEACE**

---

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.  
The old has passed away; the new has come.

**All**     **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 an appropriate sign of peace.*

*During the Hymn, bread and wine are presented at the Altar.*

### **THE OFFERTORY HYMN**

---

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.

WORDS & MUSIC: David Evans (b. 1957)

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

---

All The Lord be with you  
and also with you.

All Lift up your hearts.  
We lift them to the Lord.

All Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and everlasting God,  
through Jesus Christ, your only Son our Lord.

This day we give you thanks  
because in fulfilment of your promise  
you pour out your Spirit upon us,  
filling us with your gifts, leading us into all truth,  
and uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith.  
Your Spirit gives us grace to call you Father,  
to proclaim your gospel to all nations  
and to serve you as a royal priesthood.

Therefore we join our voices with angels and archangels,  
and with all those in whom the Spirit dwells,  
to proclaim the glory of your name,  
for ever praising you and singing:

*The Choir sings:*

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus  
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.  
Pleni sunt caeli et terra  
gloria tua.  
Hosanna in excelsis.

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

*The President continues:*

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:  
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.  
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

All      Great is the mystery of faith.  
**Christ has died:**  
**Christ is risen:**  
**Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.  
Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary  
and all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

---

Rejoicing in God's new creation,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray.

*Please pray in whichever language you feel most comfortable.*

|            |   |  |
|------------|---|--|
| <b>All</b> | <b>Our Father, who art in heaven,<br/>hallowed be thy name,<br/>thy kingdom come,<br/>thy will be done,<br/>on earth as it is in heaven.<br/>Give us this day our daily bread,<br/>And forgive us our trespasses,<br/>as we forgive those who trespass<br/>against us.<br/>And lead us not into temptation<br/>but deliver us from evil.<br/>For thine is the kingdom,<br/>the power and the glory<br/>for ever and ever.<br/>Amen.</b> | Baba wa...<br>Notre Père...<br>天におられる私たちの父よ...<br>Nna anyị...<br>Fader vår...<br>Pai nosso...<br>हे हमारे स्वर्गबासी पिता...<br>Padre nuestro...<br>我們在天上的父...<br>Отче наш...<br>하늘에 계신 우리 아버지...<br>Πάτερ ἡμῶν...<br>اے ہمارے باپ |
|------------|---|--|

## BREAKING OF THE BREAD

---

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.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

---

Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

**All** Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

*Please be seated. If you wish to receive Holy Communion or a blessing, please follow the directions of the Stewards. If you wish to receive from the chalice, please go to the point of administration after receiving the host. Please do not dip the host into the chalice. If you would like to receive a blessing, please bow your head.*

*Members of all Christian churches are welcome to receive Communion. Whatever your faith tradition or background, you are most welcome to draw near for a blessing.*

*During the distribution, the Choir sings:*

### AGNUS DEI

---

Agnus Dei, qui tollis  
peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis  
peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis  
peccata mundi,  
dona nobis pacem.

O Lamb of God, who takes away  
the sin of the world,  
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, who takes away  
the sin of the world,  
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, who takes away  
the sin of the world,  
grant us thy peace.

*Followed by:*

### COMMUNION ANTHEM

---

**Listen sweet Dove • Grayston Ives (b. 1948)**

Listen sweet Dove unto my song,  
And spread thy golden wings in me;  
Hatching my tender heart so long,  
Till it get wing and flie away with thee.

Such glorious gifts thou didst bestow  
The earth did like a heav'n appear,  
The stares were coming down to know  
If they might mend their wages and serve here.

The sunne which once did shine a lone,  
Hung down his head and wisht for night,  
When he beheld twelve sunnes for one  
Going about the world and giving light.

Lord, though we change thou art the same,  
The same sweet God of love and light:  
Restore this day for thy great name,  
Unto his ancient and miraculous right.

Whitsunday • George Herbert (1593-1633)

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

---

*Please stand.*

Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

God of mercy,  
by whose grace alone we are accepted  
and equipped for your service:  
stir up in us the gifts of your Holy Spirit  
and make us worthy of our calling;  
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit  
in love and joy and peace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

## THE SENDING OUT

---

*Please remain standing.*

### THE BLESSING

---

All The Lord be with you  
and also with you.

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.

*During the Hymn, the newly-confirmed are given a lighted candle, lit from the Paschal candle.*

## THE FINAL HYMN

---

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 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.

### TUNE: WOLVERCOTE

William H. Ferguson (1874-1950)

### TEXT:

John Bode (1816-1874)

## GIVING OF A LIGHTED CANDLE

---

*The Bishop addresses the newly-confirmed.*

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness  
and has given us a place with the saints in light.  
You have received the light of Christ;  
walk in this light all the days of your life.

**All** Shine as a light in the world  
to the glory of God the Father.

## THE DISMISSAL

---

Go in the light and peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!

**All** Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

## THE VOLUNTARY

---

*Final from Symphony No. 6 • Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)*

*During the Voluntary, the Bishop leads the newly-confirmed through the Cathedral.*

*Please leave the Cathedral by the North West doors and the Millennium Courtyard. Please consider supporting us by giving using the contactless donation points if you have not set up a regular payment. Thank you for joining us. We look forward to welcoming you back.*

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# SOUTHWARK

## ◆ CATHEDRAL ◆

**making space for love**  
with heart, mind, and soul

It is good to welcome you to Southwark Cathedral. Set on the south bank of the River Thames, in one of the most vibrant and diverse communities in London, this building has been a constant witness in a place of change.

The first church was built on this site around the year 606. First a convent, then a monastery, it became in 1106 the Augustinian Priory of St Mary Overie ('over-the-river'). With Westminster Abbey and St Bartholomew the Great in Smithfield, it is one of the three remaining great monastic churches of London. At the Reformation, the Priory became a parish church, and it remains so for the people of Bankside. In 1905, as south London was rapidly expanding, the church was consecrated as the Cathedral for the new Diocese of Southwark.

The Cathedral has a momentous and significant history and has had links with many famous and influential characters including St Thomas Becket, Geoffrey Chaucer, William Shakespeare and Charles Dickens. It has also been a Cathedral for those who feel on the edges of faith or society, our welcome reaching out to all people in their beautiful God-given diversity.

Here, our Christian faith is captured in our vision to 'make space for love: with heart, mind, and soul'. Faith requires our hearts to stand up for social justice, upholding integrity and kindness, and supporting the vulnerable and oppressed. It challenges our thinking, inviting our minds to be enquiring, honest, and generous. Faith also seeks to deepen our inner lives, with the arts and creativity, by sharing in the life of our community, and by learning the arts of prayer and attention. In Jesus Christ we see the human face of God, and our faith in him is our joy and our life.

We really hope you enjoy being here with us today and that we will see you again very soon.

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