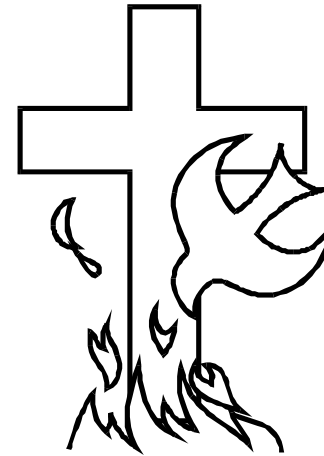


Being Part of the Story



A Kit to assist preparation
of the Confirmation
Service

Published by
The Presbyterian Publishing Company Ltd

Introduction

The confirmation service is an important point on the journey. It marks a decision to publicly commit to the Christ way. The service is a rite of the church not a private ceremony. By it the candidate declares their acceptance of the call of Christ and in return the church accepts them as a new member.

This kit has been compiled for use in connection with the studies in preparation for confirmation. At the end of a such a series candidates are asked to make the decision whether they wish to go forward with a service of confirmation. This kit will enable the candidates to then become part of the process of putting together a liturgy that is meaningful to them.

The kit was designed on similar lines to marriage and funeral kits widely used in the church. A basic order of service has been selected and then selections are offered for key parts. The order for the Lord's Supper and prayers of the people have not been included.

Where a candidate has not been baptised the sacrament would follow the Affirmation of Faith (H). At this point in the service some may wish to reaffirm their baptismal vows. Suitable liturgies are available from:

Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand,
Courses and Resources, P.O. Box 9049, Wellington.

Some object to such a kit on the grounds that the resulting liturgy can be a hotch potch of various styles. This has not been my experience, however, for those who wish to follow through a single liturgy two sources have been given in their entirety and assigned a common number. The number following the source indicates the original order of the service. It is not intended that every item must be included or that the order may not be rearranged. Some candidates would wish for more songs or readings. The kit should enable the minister and candidate to work together creatively to plan a truly memorable occasion.

At the end of each selection its source is noted and a list of all sources is given at the end of the kit. I would give my thanks to all who have allowed their work to be used.

Sources

Chartwell Cooperating Parish

Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

Uniting In Worship - Joint Board of Christian Education, Uniting Church of Australia

Seasons and Celebrations - Prayers for Christian Worship Book 1 compiled by Donald Hamilton 1996
National Christian Education Council

Word in Worship - Prayers for Christian Worship Book 2 compiled by Donald Hamilton 1996
National Christian Education Council

Waiwhetu Uniting Church, Hutt City Uniting Congregations, Lower Hutt - service developed by Craig Forbes for use in a congregation with Methodist and Presbyterian heritage.

Methodist Church of New Zealand Draft Order 2002
Full liturgy available in booklet or on disk from the Connexional Office, P. O. Box 931,
Christchurch.

Womanword By M. T. Winter, Crossroad Pub. Co.,
1990 Medical Mission Sisters

Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.
AMEN. WE GO IN THE NAME OF CHRIST.

Chartwell Cooperating Parish 9

Presbyter: Go in peace to love and serve God.

All: GOD THE CREATOR GRANT US GRACE AND STRENGTH,
GOD THE REDEEMER GRANT US NEW LIFE,
GOD THE SPIRIT EMPOWER AND ENCOURAGE US,
THE THREE-IN-ONE BE WITH US, EVERY ONE. **AMEN.**

or

Presbyter: The grace of Christ attend you;
the love of God surround you;
the Holy Spirit keep you
this day and for ever.

All: **AMEN.**

or

Presbyter: Let us go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast to what is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the faint-hearted;
support the weak;
help the afflicted;
honour all people;
love and serve God
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

and/ or

All: THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
THE LOVE OF GOD,
AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
BE WITH US ALL.
AMEN.

*The newly confirmed, their sponsors and families may lead the way out of
church*

Methodist

An Order of Service for Confirmation

section page

A 4 Gathering

B 6 Hymns and Songs

C 10 Opening Prayer – Praise and Confession

D 13 Bible Readings

E 16 Other Readings

Sermon

B Hymn

F 20 Presentation of Candidates

G 23 Witness of Faith and Commitment to Serve

H 27 Affirmation of Faith

I 31 Prayer of Invocation

B Hymn

J 34 Laying On Of Hands

**K 37 Commissioning for Service and
Charge to Congregation**

Prayers of the People

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

B Hymn

L 41 Presentation to candidates

M 43 Blessing and Dismissal

A
Gathering

M
Blessing and
Dismissal

Sponsor: On behalf of the Church family I give you this lighted candle. For Christ said, "I am the light of the World, whoever follows me will never walk in darkness."

Minister: N, keep the flame of faith alive in your heart.

Reader: God, our parent, with those who have been baptised and confirmed this day, we rejoice in the gift of the Holy Spirit. We thank you that the Spirit awakens us to new truth, strengthens us in our daily pilgrimage, and inspires us to venture out into life. We thank you for our church, and for our fellowship with Christ who shows us the way of discipleship. Praise be to God, Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen

DR

Presentation of confirmation certificates

The newly confirmed and their sponsors may gather at the front of the church. Certificates are presented.

The sponsor of each person confirmed may take a white candle, light it from the Easter candle or from a candle on the communion table, saying:

Sponsor:, you belong to Christ the light of the world.

or, walk in the way of Christ; shine with the light of Christ.

When all the newly confirmed have received lighted candles:

Presbyter: Let your light shine before others
so that they may see your good works
and give glory to God.

Methodist

All standing,

E te whanau a te Karaiti,
welcome to this holy table; welcome to you,
for we are Christ's body, Christ's work in the world.
Welcome to you whose baptism makes you salt of the earth and light to the world. Rejoice and be glad.
Praise God who gives us, forgiveness and hope.

AMEN CHRIST IS OUR LIGHT,
THE JOY OF OUR SALVATION.

Chartwell Cooperating Parish 1

We never worship you alone, Lord God.
Even when we are on our own we are still surrounded by your faithful people
from the past, in the present, and of the future.
Women and men have been prepared to die to serve you, Lord God.
Your love has had such an amazing effect on them.
Ordinary people, like us, have done extraordinary things, Lord God.
Your spirit has transformed them.
We have been given hope that there is a purpose for life, Lord God.
You have met us in Jesus.
So with all your people of every age, we come to praise and adore you.

Seasons and Celebrations 264

Loving God, we come to worship you.
We bring our gifts and we bring ourselves;
we bring our hopes and we bring our fears;
we bring our experience of this last week, its hurt and its delight;
we bring our thoughts of those for whom we want to pray.
We bring our families and friends, those close to us and those far away;
we bring the work we have done this week, and the work we have failed to do;
we bring our relationships within this church,
and all our contacts in the wider community of town and nation.
These all, Lord, we lay before you.
If anything we bring is good in your sight - affirm and bless us.
If anything we bring is lacking in purpose and truth - enlighten and guide us
If anything we bring is fragmented and broken - heal and mend us.
If anything we bring is twisted and tawdry - forgive and renew us.
But, Lord, whatever we bring, do not reject us;
welcome us in your Son's name.

Word in worship 306

B
Songs and
Hymns

L
Presentation
To Candidates

A PSALM OF COMMISSIONING FOR MISSION

- Leader** The harvest is ready.
Whom shall I send?
- Voice** Send me, Shaddai,
I am ready to serve You, all the days of my life.
- All** Go into the workplace and into the streets
and reveal God's saving Spirit through the quality of your life.
- Leader** The world is waiting.
Whom shall I send?
- Voice** Send me, Shaddai,
I am ready to speak of You, all the days of my life.
- All** Preach the Good News by your actions:
heal, help, teach, touch, be of good spirit
in good times and bad times, and live for the glory of God.
- Leader** The world is hungry.
Whom shall I send?
- Voice** Send me, Shaddai,
I am ready to nourish, all the days of my life.
- All** Feed the hungry of body and spirit,
break the bread of compassion, distribute the fragments of hope,
and be fed by the Word within you.
- Leader** The vineyard is ready.
Whom shall I send?
- Voice** Send me, Shaddai,
I am ready to work for You, all the days of my life.
- All** Enter into and love the mission and your many ministries,
labor for justice, lobby for peace, and may you find contentment
in the wages of commitment when the long hard day is done.

Womanword 232

To live like Jesus

Tune: RHUDDLAN 8.7.8.7-8.7 With One Voice 543ii

1. God, we seek to live like Jesus,
Truly human, yet divine;
But our fears and inner weakness
Hold us captive all the time.
Help us find your kingdom's presence
In the heart and in the mind.
2. Waken all the latent mystery,
All the reverence, awe and worth
Which belong to every person,
Every creature on this earth,
That with wonder we may praise you
For each life, each death, each birth.
3. Fire us with the themes of Scripture;
Help us see your Spirit act
In the world that lies around us,
Via the media, through each fact;
And when prophets urge us onwards
May we follow - not react.
4. Help us free the Christian message
From the prisons of the mind -
Use each art form in proclaiming
Love unfettered, unconfined,
Till our lives and words are witness
To a God both just and kind.
5. We need others for our growing
In maturity and grace,
For through sharing lives and stories,
Meeting people face to face,
We become more loving persons
And Christ's style of life embrace.
6. To this 'worship', 'word', and 'sharing'
We must add our serving role;
Take the pain of broken people,
Bear earth's cross within our soul;
For through deathless hope and caring,
Dreams are born and lives made whole.

Bill Wallace

Suitable Hymns may include:

Note: Some of the hymns below may require word changes to be inclusive.

With One Voice

A Charge To Keep I Have	487
Be Thou My Vision	455
Breathe On Me Breath of God	320
Come Holy Ghost Our Hearts Inspire	308
Fill Thou My Life	515
Forth In Thy Name I Go	480
God Be In My Head	456
God of Grace And God of Glory	543
Holy Spirit, Come Confirm Us	327
I'm Not Ashamed To Own My Lord	470
Just As I Am, Thine Own To Be	526
Just As I Am, Without One Plea	497
Let Him To Whom We Now Belong	146
Lord of Creation. To You Be All Praise	557
Make Me A Captive Lord	528
Master Speak Thy Servant Hearth	516
May The Mind of Christ My Saviour	537
My God Accept My Heart This Day	410
O Jesus I Have Promised	514
O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go	525
Once To Every Man And Nation	499
O Master Let Me Walk With Thee	522
Take My Life and Let It Be	520
What Does The Lord Require	568

Church Hymnary 3rd Ed.

We Come, O Christ, To Thee	592
We Magnify Thy Name, O God	595

The Celebration of Faith: (All standing)

Let us rejoice with those who have committed themselves to Christ and celebrate the faith of our baptism. Do you believe in God the Father?
I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY, CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
I BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST, GOD'S 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, IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER, AND WILL COME AGAIN TO JUDGE THE LIVING AND THE DEAD.

Do you believe in God 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.

Chartwell Cooperating Parish 8

The newly confirmed stand and face the congregation. The congregation stands.

Presbyter (names) have confirmed their baptismal vows and have been received as members into the catholic church.

We, here, stand in the great traditions of the Methodist and Presbyterian churches - Uniting to live out our faith in this community, in this city.

Do you receive (names) as members of this Uniting congregation, promising to support and nurture their faith as your own?

People WE DO

Presbyter Will you welcome them, offering the hand of fellowship and peace?

People WE WILL

Representatives from the Congregational Council come forward and offer their welcome on behalf of the congregation.

Waiwhetu

Father, we pray for (each person just confirmed is named), and for all who have been confirmed by your Spirit; that they may always witness to Christ: Lord, hear us.

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

Father, we pray for those who have led your children in the faith; that their influence for good may continue: Lord, hear us.

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

The intercessions may conclude with the following:

Loving Father, hear our prayer, and teach us all to use well your daily gift of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

PCANZ 6

Presbyter: People of this congregation: love, encourage and support these brothers and sisters in Christ, that they may continue to grow in grace and the knowledge and love of God.

All: WITH GOD'S HELP WE WILL LIVE OUT OUR BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION AS A LOVING COMMUNITY IN CHRIST: NURTURING ONE ANOTHER IN FAITH, UPHOLDING ONE ANOTHER IN PRAYER AND ENCOURAGING ONE ANOTHER IN SERVICE.

The following may be included in the intercessions:

Leader: God of faithful, constant love, our lives have been touched and enriched in countless ways by the community of faith.

All: THANK YOU FOR THE LOVE THAT DRAWS US OUT OF OURSELVES AND GIVES US THE COURAGE TO REACH OUT FOR OTHERS.

Leader: Open us to those who have never heard your call, and to those who have lost their way; to those who find themselves caught up in forces beyond their control that lessen their humanity.

All: MAY YOUR WORD OF REDEEMING LOVE BE SPOKEN THROUGH OUR WORDS AND OUR LIVES.

Leader: Open us also to those who see you, O God, in a different light, or from a different perspective from our own:

All: THAT WE MAY LISTEN TO ONE ANOTHER AND, TOGETHER, DISCOVER NEW DIRECTIONS FOR OUR JOURNEY TOGETHER.

Leader: In a world where bitterness and hatred threaten human life itself:

All: GIVE US COURAGE TO REACH OUT IN LOVE AND TO MAKE POSSIBLE NEW BEGINNINGS THROUGH OUR FAITH. AMEN.

Methodist

38

Alleluia Aotearoa

Brother, Sister Let Me Serve You	8
Church of the Living Christ	19
Everyday I Will Offer You	36
God of All Time	49
Great and Deep the Spirit's Purpose	55
He Came Singing Love	59
Here Is The Place (a hymn for confirmation)	60
In the Name of Christ We Gather	69
Jesus Come To Our Hearts	78
Jesus, I Come	79
Let's Praise The Creator	86
Lift High the Cross	87
Loving Spirit	94
Arohanui Blessing—May the Mystery	95
O the Spirit She Moves On the Water	109
Our Life Has Its Seasons	113
Spirit of Love	125
Spirit Who Broods	126
Take My Gifts	127

Servant Songs

Make Me A Channel—St. Francis	26
-------------------------------	----

Songs of the Kingdom

Spirit of the Living God	303
--------------------------	-----

New Zealand Praise

Lord Let Me Be What You Want Me To Be	161
Let Your Love Shine Out	191

Or simply use the candidates' favourites.

C
**Opening
Prayer of
Praise and
Confession**

K
**Commissioning
for Service
Charge to the
Congregation**

The presbyter and others appointed lay hands upon the head or shoulders of each candidate in turn, saying:

Presbyter: Holy Spirit, by your power strengthen.....
to be a faithful disciple of Christ all the days of her/his life.

When all have received the laying on of hands, the newly confirmed stand. One of the following or some other blessing may be said or sung.

May the mystery of God enfold you.
May the wisdom of God uphold you.
May the fragrance of God be around you.
May the brightness of God surround you.
May the wonder of God renew you.
May the loving of God flow through you.
May the peace of God deeply move you.
May the moving of God bring you peace.
(Joy Cowley, *Alleluia Aotearoa 95*)

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace.
(Aaronic Blessing)

The love of the faithful Creator,
the peace of the wounded Healer,
the joy of the challenging Spirit,
the hope of the Three in one,
surround and encourage you,
today, tonight and forever. Amen.
(Kathy Galloway ed.- *The Pattern of Our Days*)

May holy Wisdom,
kind to humanity,
steadfast, sure and free,
the breath of the power of God;
may she who makes all things new,
in every age, enter your soul,
and make you a friend of God,
through Jesus Christ. Amen.
(Janet Morley- *All Desires Known*)

Methodist

Praise and glory to Christ,
God's new beginning for humanity making ritual water gospel wine,
cleansing all our worship.
LOVE AND LOYALTY TO CHRIST, WHO GIVES US THE GOSPEL.
PRAISE TO CHRIST WHO CALLS US TO HOLINESS.
Christ is the good shepherd
who knows and cares for every one of the sheep in different folds.
In Christ there is neither Jew nor Gentile; in Christ there is no discrimination
of gender class or race.
In Christ the poor are blessed,
the simple receive truth hidden from the wise.
ALLELUIA!
GOD OF JUSTICE AND COMPASSION,
YOU GIVE US A WORK TO DO AND A BAPTISM OF SUFFERING
AND RESURRECTION. FROM YOU COMES POWER TO GIVE TO
OTHERS THE CARE WE HAVE OURSELVES RECEIVED SO THAT
WE, AND ALL WHO LOVE YOUR WORLD, MAY LIVE IN
HARMONY AND TRUST.
Forgiveness:
We come seeking forgiveness
for all we have failed to be and do
as members of Christ's body.
In God there is forgiveness.
LOVING AND ALL-SEEING GOD,
FORGIVE US WHERE WE HAVE FAILED TO SUPPORT ONE
ANOTHER AND TO BE WHAT WE CLAIM TO BE.
FORGIVE US WHERE WE HAVE FAILED TO SERVE YOU; AND
WHERE OUR THOUGHTS AND ACTIONS HAVE BEEN CONTRARY
TO YOURS, WE ASK YOUR PARDON.
God forgives us; be at peace.

Silence
Rejoice and be glad,
for Christ is resurrection,
reconciliation for all the human race.
WE SHALL ALL BE ONE IN CHRIST,
ONE IN OUR LIVES TOGETHER.
PRAISE TO GOD WHO HAS CREATED US, PRAISE TO OUR GOD
WHO HAS ACCEPTED US,
PRAISE TO OUR GOD WHO SENDS US INTO THE WORLD.

Loving God, we thank you for all those who have listened to your call, followed you faithfully, served you wholeheartedly and witnessed to your truth, justice and love.

We thank you for the prophets who bravely declared your word to hostile and uncaring peoples.

We thank you for the disciples who embraced the strange adventure of following Jesus.

We thank you for the evangelists who risked their lives to bring the good news of your saving love to all the world.

We thank you for Christian people in every age and in every place, who have lived out your gospel as shining lights in a dark world.

We remember those whom we have known,

who have shown us the way of love

and given us insights, comfort or challenge.

We thank you now for those who have died,

and rejoice that in you we are all made one on earth and in heaven.

Seasons and Celebrations 265

We gather this morning to celebrate anew your love for us, O God,
TO GIVE THANKS AND PRAISE FOR YOUR WORK AMONGST US.

We come to offer ourselves and our lives to your service,
TO CELEBRATE YOUR COMMUNION AND RESPOND TO YOUR
CALL.

We worship, conscious that we have not always lived up to your example
or our ideals,

YET KNOWING THAT IN YOU IS FORGIVENESS AND THE
PROMISE OF NEW LIFE AND NEW BEGINNINGS.

We come, with our prayers for those things that concern us most
OFFERING TO YOU THE PRAYERS OF OUR HEARTS.

silence

Loving God, you hear us when we pray and so with Christians throughout
the ages we offer the prayer we were taught saying... OUR FATHER..

Waiwhetu 1

The candidates receive the laying on of hands.
Creator Spirit, strengthen N
with your gifts of grace, to love and serve as a disciple of Christ.

Guide, protect, uphold her/him
that she/he may continue yours forever. Amen.

For those who desire to renew their faith:

Creator Spirit,
rekindle your gifts of grace, renew their life in Christ and bring to completion
all that your calling has begun. Amen

Living God,
empower your disciples to bring life to the world.

The people respond
AMEN! MAY WE AND THEY TOGETHER
BE FOUND IN CHRIST AND CHRIST IN US.

Chartwell Cooperating Parish 7

*The minister lays hands on the head of each candidate in turn, saying each
time:*

N, receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
The God of all grace, who has called you
to eternal glory, confirm you by the Holy
Spirit, that you may be faultless in the
Day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
God the Father, God the Son, and God the
Holy Spirit bless, protect and keep you,
now and for ever. Amen.

*The candidates stand. As a hymn of the Church is sung the minister, followed
by members of the Session / Parish Council, offers a sign of peace to those
just confirmed.*

The minister may say to each:

N, peace be with you.

*As the hymn continues others may come forward and offer those just
confirmed a sign of peace.*

PCANZ 5

J
Laying On
Of Hands

D
Bible
Readings

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

Matthew 16:24-26

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.
Titus 3:4-5

The Lord God has told us what is right and what he demands: "See that justice is done, let mercy be your first concern, and humbly obey your God."

Micah 6:8

You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

John 15:16-17

The candidates kneel and the presbyter calls everyone to silent prayer which concludes with:

Presbyter Let us pray
By the power of your Spirit,
strengthen your servant/s
and set their hearts alight with love for you.
May your gifts of grace grow within them:
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of goodness and gentleness,
the spirit of wonder in your presence,
the spirit of joy and delight in your service, now and forever.

All AMEN.

Methodist

The candidates kneel and the presbyter calls everyone to silent prayer which concludes with:

Presbyter Lord God, you claim us to be your servant people, united in the community of faith. In your great love, you have called these your servants to be disciples of Jesus Christ. Confirm to them your promise; commission them by your Spirit; mould their lives by your grace.

Waiwhetu (from a Presbyterian Liturgy)

E
Other
Readings

I
Prayer of
Invocation

Leader: We are not alone - we live in God's world.
All: We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus,
crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death,
in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Uniting Church of Canada
taken from the Methodist Order

All: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Nicean Creed

The Paschal Way

You said that if I walked your path with you I would experience the blossoming of heaven. I thought that you meant flowers, blooms of celebration strewn along the Hosanna road, or arranged by flickering candles in a church filled with peace,

or clustered fragrant in a heart
made into permanent summer by prayer,

or handed to me by friends
who valued flowers as much as I did.

You said that if I walked your path with you I would discover the sweetness of God and I expected to be given flowers. But actually you were talking of thorns and a cross on the road to dying and hands and feet pierced by a truth that I did not want to own and a feeling of forsakenness and a letting go
and a love so terrible it came like a sword in my struggling heart and finally, nothing but you and I in the silence of the tomb.

You asked me to walk your path with you and yes, you did mean flowers but not the fragile things of a day. Something of permanent fragrance and a beauty that can't be measured by a panacea of small comforts.

You were talking of the tomb transformed, imprisonment into freedom, crosses into wisdom,
suffering into compassion, darkness into light.

You were talking of your presence,
in a life made larger by your Easter journey.
You were talking of resurrections without end.

Joy Cowley from Psalms Down-under

The Call

Jesus says, "Come, follow me."

I say,
"Lord, you're calling the wrong person. I'm not the following type.
It takes me all my time to stand on my own two feet."

And he says, "I love you."

I say,
"Now, don't get me wrong, Lord. I do all I can within reason, but I can't
afford to go overboard. I mean, I have to live in this world."

And he says, "I love you."

I say,
"It's all very well to talk about love, but love is dangerous.
It can get people crucified. At the best it can be misunderstood.
if I go round telling people I love them, someone's going to lock me up."

And he says, "I love you."

I say,
"The trouble is, I'm not ready. Come back in a few years when I've got my
life sorted out. By then I should have something to offer you."

And he says, "I love you."

I say,
"Lord, don't look at me like that. You're making it very difficult.
All right, I'll spell it out. I'm a sinner. I'd let you down. I'd give my life to
you and then try to take it back again. I'm weak, Lord."

And he says, "I love you."

I say,
"You don't understand what I'm telling you.
I'd deny you and betray you. There'd be times when I'd crucify you.
And what would you think of me then?"

And he says, "I love you."

Joy Cowley from Aotearoa Psalms

Let us confess the faith into which we are baptised.

ALL We believe in God who made the world, loves it and laughs at it;
Who created human beings each to be different
And asked them to get on with each other
Who took the risk of leaving us alone,
Knowing that one day our differences
Might threaten the earth's safety;
Who trusts us in full knowledge of our frailty.

We believe in Jesus Christ
Who came among us insignificantly,
Who grew among us uneventfully,
Who walked among us incognito;
Who, to change the world,
Became redundant and called others away from security;
Who befriended those whose company would discredit him;

Who pardoned those who deserved to be condemned;
Who healed those who were hopeless cases;
Who contradicted common sense
By accepting the cross, taking on the grave
And being liberated to life on the third day.

Who calls us, now as then, to a life
Which is absurd by the standards of the world.

We believe in the holy spirit through whom God surprises,
Disappoints, cajoles and questions us;
Who is the bringer of strength and source of humour;
Who leads us to discover the truth we avoid;
Who is a paradox -ever present yet unpredictable.

And we believe that the foolishness of God is wiser
Than the wisdom of the world: and
We rejoice that God has made it so.

(An Affirmation of Faith from Crosslink April 1996)

The congregation and candidates for laying on of hands, stand to respond in these affirmations.

Praise to God who has given us life.

BLESSED BE GOD FOR THE GIFT OF LOVE.

Praise to God who forgives our sin.

BLESSED BE GOD WHO SETS US FREE.

Praise to God who kindles our faith.

BLESSED BE GOD, OUR STRENGTH, OUR HOPE.

Let us renounce evil and commit our lives to Christ.

BLESSED BE GOD, JESUS IS LORD!

To the candidates:

What is your faith?

They respond:

I believe and trust in God the Father,

maker and sustainer of all things;

And in God the Son and in God the Holy Spirit,

giver of life and truth.

This is my faith.

Chartwell Cooperating Parish 4

The minister addressing the congregation says:

Let us say together the Apostles' Creed:

I BELIEVE IN GOD, THE FATHER ALMIGHTY, CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH. I BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST, HIS ONLY SON, OUR LORD. HE WAS CONCEIVED BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY. HE 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, AND IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER. HE WILL COME AGAIN TO JUDGE THE LIVING AND THE DEAD. 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

The candidates say together:

As children of God, we repent of our sins, we renounce all evil, and firmly resolve to follow Christ, the light of the world. AMEN.

PCANZ 3

I asked the Lord for a bunch of fresh flowers,
but instead he gave me an ugly cactus with many thorns.

I asked the Lord for some beautiful butterflies,
but instead he gave me many ugly and dreadful worms.

I was threatened,

I was disappointed,

I mourned.

But after many days,

Suddenly,

I saw the cactus bloomed

with many beautiful flowers, and those worms

became beautiful butterflies

flying in the spring wind.

God's way is the best way.

Rev Chun-Ming Kao,

General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan,

written while in prison.

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve,

I was made weak, that I might learn

humbly to obey ...

I asked for health, that I might do greater things,

I was given infirmity, that I might do better things ...

I asked for riches, that I might be happy,

I was given poverty, that I might be wise ...

I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men,

I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God ...

I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life,

I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.

I got nothing that I asked for, but everything I had hoped for,

Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered,

I am among all men, most richly blessed.

Unknown Soldier at Gettysburg

F

**Presentation
of the
Candidates**

H

**Affirmation
of Faith**

Commitment to Christian Service:

The congregation is seated.

Those who are baptized are called to worship and serve God. From the beginning, believers have continued in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in prayers.

Will you commit yourselves to this life?

Candidate: I will, with God's help.

Will you forgive others as you are forgiven?

Candidate: I will, with God's help.

Will you seek to love your neighbour as yourself and strive for peace and justice?

Candidate: I will, with God's help.

Will you accept the cost of following Jesus Christ in your daily life and work?

Candidate: I will, with God's help.

Chartwell Cooperating Parish 5

Minister: I ask you now to pledge yourself to Christian discipleship:

Do you promise to follow Christ in your daily life?

Candidate: With God's help, I will seek to love and obey Christ, and to grow in my relationship with God through prayer and study of the Bible.

Minister: Do you promise to be a faithful member of the Christian community?

Candidate: With God's help, I will share in the worship of the church, and support its work with my time, talents and money.

Minister: Do you promise to participate in God's mission to the world?

Candidate: With God's help, I will witness to Christ in word and deed, and look for the coming of his kingdom.

Minister: I charge you, the people of this congregation, to love, encourage and support this sister/brother in faith, that she/he may continue to grow in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the knowledge and love of God.

All WITH GOD'S HELP, WE WILL LIVE OUT OUR BAPTISM AS A LOVING COMMUNITY IN CHRIST: NURTURING ONE ANOTHER IN FAITH, UPHOLDING ONE ANOTHER IN SERVICE.

Source Unknown

Supporters: I present,,,, to profess their faith.

Minister: We welcome you as you come to profess your faith. At your baptism you were made a disciple of Christ, and signed with the sign of the cross.

Come now to receive the laying on of hands with prayer, to strengthen you for the work of God's kingdom.

Chartwell Cooperating Parish 3

The Candidates are brought forward

The minister addresses the candidates:

Beloved in the Lord, all of you have been baptized and you come now freely to declare your faith in God, to offer yourselves to Christ, and to receive the blessing of the Holy Spirit. We rejoice that you have responded to God's grace. We rejoice that God will continue to bless you, confirming you with the gift of the Holy Spirit. Because God's love is steadfast we know that the one who has begun this good work in you will bring it to completion in Christ Jesus our Lord.

PCANZ 1

(The sponsors bring the candidates forward & introduce them)

Sponsors: We present N who has come today to affirm the faith into which she/he was baptised.

Minister: Obeying the word of the Lord Jesus, and confident of his promises, the church baptises those whom he has called. Baptism is the sign of new life in Christ Jesus. By water and the Holy Spirit we are brought into union with Christ in his death and resurrection.

In baptism we are sealed with the Holy Spirit, made members of the body of Christ, and called to his ministry in the world.

In confirmation we acknowledge what God is doing for us; we renew in faith the covenant declared in our baptism; and we are commissioned for our ministry in the world.

Uniting in Worship p.20

Supporters: We present to you (name/s) who have/has been prepared for confirmation.

Presbyter: We welcome you as you come to profess your faith and to receive the laying on of hands with prayer, to strengthen you for the work of God's kingdom.

You have come to confirm the baptismal vows made for you in your childhood and to declare your wish to be received as an adult member to the catholic church, exercising your faith in this congregation.

We are a Uniting congregation, sharing in the traditions of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand and the Methodist Church of New Zealand - Te Haahi Weteriana o Aotearoa. In each of these traditions we find our links to the wider catholic church to which we all belong.

Waiwhetu 2

Presbyter Jesus said "you did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should bear fruit and that your fruit should abide".

Presbyter My friend/s, who is your Lord and Saviour?

Candidate/s Jesus Christ is my Lord and Saviour.

Presbyter Do you trust in him?

Candidate/s I do.

Presbyter Do you intend to be his disciple? To obey his word, and show his love?

Candidate/s I do.

Presbyter Will you seek to be a faithful member of this congregation, and seek the fellowship of the church wherever you may be?

Candidate/s I will.

Waiwhetu (from a Presbyterian Liturgy)

Presbyter You who have been baptised share with all the baptised responsibility for ministry in the world. May God's Spirit guide you to be true disciples/ a true disciple in this land of Aotearoa-New Zealand. I ask you to pledge yourself to Christian ministry.

Will you follow Christ in your daily life?

Candidate/s With God's help I will seek to love and obey Christ and be open to the Spirit of God through prayer and the study of the Bible.

Presbyter Will you be a faithful member of the Christian community?

Candidate/s With God's help I will share regularly in worship and support the work of the church with my time, talents, and money.

Presbyter Will you actively participate in the mission of the church? Will you care for God's creation, love and forgive others, work for justice and reconciliation, develop your gifts and share your faith?

Candidate/s With God's help I will witness to Christ in word and deed and serve God's new creation.

Waiwhetu (Methodist order from Lynne Wall)

Minister: Jesus said, Whoever will acknowledge me before others, I will acknowledge before my Father in heaven.

I now ask you to declare your faith in God Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and to accept Christ's Gospel of grace and salvation.

As all stand the candidates turn to face the congregation.

The candidates say together:

We put our trust in God, as Lord, and in the Holy Spirit, as our Comforter and Guide. Therefore we are glad to join with all God's people in professing the faith of the universal Church:

PCANZ 2

G Witness of Faith and Commitment to Serve

Minister: Through baptism we enter the covenant which God has established; and in confirmation we affirm that we belong to God's covenant people. In the light of the gospel we proclaim, I ask you now:

Minister: *Name*, do you repent of your sins?

Candidate: I repent of my sins.

Minister: Do you turn to Jesus Christ, who has defeated the power of sin and death and brought us new life?

Candidate: I turn to Christ.

Minister: Do you pledge yourself to God, trusting in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and in the Holy Spirit as Counsellor and Guide?

Candidate: I pledge myself to God.

Uniting in Worship p.21

Presbyter: In the light of the gospel that the church proclaims we ask you: Do you turn away from all that is evil and life destroying?

Candidate: With God's help I do.

Presbyter: Do you turn to God, seeking to become part of the new creation in Jesus Christ?

Candidate: By the grace of God, I do.

Presbyter: Do you affirm your baptism and your place in the church?

Candidate: I do.

Candidates may recall their baptism by making the sign of the cross on their forehead with water from the font

Presbyter: You are called to a life of worship and freedom, truth and beauty, compassion and courage. May your heart and mind and soul remain open to the Spirit of God.

Methodist 1