

The Eliot Church of Newton

474 Centre Street, Newton, MA 02458 617-244-3639 www.eliotchurch.org

Second Sunday of Easter

April 11, 2010

Confirmation Sunday

Welcome guest! Here is a sample of a Sunday Worship Bulletin at Eliot Church, to give you a sense of the order of service and the music of our prayer life. We hope you can join us soon in person for our 10:00 Sunday service.

- Pastors Rev. Tony Kill & Rev. Karla Miller

Thought for Reflection

When you go back to the origins of the word "Confirmation," it is interesting to discover its meaning. It means "to strengthen." Confirmation is, or perhaps should be, the church's effort to strengthen young people during the wild and wonderful ride of adolescence, and for the journey toward becoming adult people. It is the church's best effort to strengthen young people by helping them understand and know something about the people and practices of the Christian faith.

I have noticed that often the church has it backwards. We seem to think of Confirmation as a time when teenagers tell us adults and the church what we want to hear. We think of it as a time for teens to confirm or affirm the church. There's an element of that, but mostly it gets the emphasis in the wrong place. The emphasis needs to fall on our best efforts as a congregation to strengthen young people, a part of which is affirming your capacity to make decisions.

It is more an entry and initiation, and a beginning. It is a beginning in a couple of ways. Now, you are invited to take your place in the congregation and church as a person who has gifts to share and a contribution to make. You can become a full, voting member of the congregation. I have seen young members of the church speak a decisive word at a congregational meeting, lead the church in prayer, come up with a great mission project, and set aside a percentage of the money they make for the church.

It is also a beginning, more than an ending, of a faith journey that will take your whole life to complete. To be confirmed is to say that you intend to pursue your faith journey and spiritual growth within this congregation, this tradition, and this faith. That may not remain true for your whole life. Who knows, you may become a Buddhist or a Jew. You may find your spiritual home in a Twelve Step Group, or do all your worshipping on long hikes in the mountains. But for now, being confirmed means that you join others in seeking to grow and practice your faith in this congregation and in the church.

But there's an even deeper way in which it is a beginning. While Confirmation doesn't mean this for everyone, it is for some an act of deep trust, a giving of yourself to God, as you understand and have come to know God. It is a saying "Yes" to something beyond yourself.

From a letter by the Rev. Anthony Robinson to his teenage daughter,
in Words for The Journey: Letters to our Teenagers about Life and Faith



Order of Worship

Prelude

Trio

J. Rheinberger

Introit

Praise the Lord, For He is Good

arr. H. Davies

Praise the Lord, for He is good;
For his mercies ever sure
From eternity have stood,
To eternity endure.
Let his ransomed people raise
Songs of their Redeemer's praise.
Amen.

Greeting and Welcome

Call to Worship

R: Come, Holy Spirit, Fill the hearts of your faithful

C: *And enkindle in us the fire of Divine Love*

R: Send forth your Spirit, that we may be re-created,

C: *And You shall renew the face of the earth*

* **Hymn** **Now in the Days of Youth**

Invocation

Confession of Sin

Invitation

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, Creator and Redeemer, in reverence we bow before you, giving thanks for your love and seeking your grace. Humbly we acknowledge that you have blessed us and called us to be your servants in the world. Yet we confess that we have sometimes failed to witness, by word and action, to the liberating truth of Jesus Christ. In Christ's name forgive us and grant us a new birth of spirit, that we may be your instruments of oneness and of joy, of healing and of peace. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Pardon

* **Gloria**

The Life and Mission of the Church

The Children's Time

The Lord's Prayer

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

Sung Blessing of the Children

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone;
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own;
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children with my blessing, you are my own.

The Word

Hebrew Scriptures Jeremiah 1:4-10

Gospel John 14:15-19, 25-27

The Rite of Confirmation

Introduction

Call of Confirmands

Charge and Questions

Personal Statements of the Confirmands

Question of Intent

Question to the Congregation

Do you, who are members of this church acknowledge the commitment and the faith journey of these young people? Do you offer to pray for them, to nurture, sustain and encourage them, to accept them into full fellowship and to bind yourselves in covenant with them before the Lord?

C: *We Do*

The Covenant Commitment

We believe in God, in God's love for us and that grace abounds.

*We seek understanding of God as revealed through the Word,
through the life of Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit.*

*We covenant with God and one another to live and worship together,
sharing each other's burdens and joys — in good times and bad —
and ministering to the wider world in service to the whole human family.*

God grant us grace to be true to this our Covenant.

Pronouncement

The Laying on of Hands

Anthem I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry John Ylvisaker

The composer expresses the Biblical promises of Divine Providence in the first person. God is the "I" in this hymn.

I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.

I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
 I'll be there in case you wander off and find where demons dwell.
 When you found the wonder of the Word, I was there to cheer you on;
 You were raised to praise the living God, to whom you now belong.
 Should you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
 I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.
 In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,
 I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.
 When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,
 I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.
 I was there to hear your borning cry. I'll be there when you are old.
 I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

Admonition and Blessing

Signing of the Membership Book

Hand of Fellowship

(The mentors and members of the Coordinating Council are invited to exchange the hand of fellow-ship with the new members, while all in the congregation greet one another in fellowship and peace.)

* **Hymn** **Here I Am, Lord**

Commissioning of Missionaries

Affirmation of the Congregation

We rejoice and celebrate you as representatives of our church, and we are thankful for your dedication and your gift of service. We send you on with our prayers and our support, and with you , we renew our commitment to God and service in the name of Christ, who taught us how to serve and love. We pray God's blessings for you and the Appalachia Service Project. Amen.

Anthem

The Prayer

Foster/Bayer

Emilia Halstead, Soloist

I pray You'll be our eyes
 And watch us where we go
 And help us to be wise
 In times when we don't know
 Let this be our prayer
 as we go our way

Lead us to a place
 Guide us with Your grace
 To a place where we'll be safe

I pray we'll find Your light
 And hold it in our hearts
 When stars go out each night
 Remind us where You are
 Let this be our prayer

When shadows fill our day

We ask that life be kind
And watch us from above
We hope each soul will find
Another soul to love
Let this be our prayer
Just like every child
Needs to find a place
Guide us with your grace
Give us faith so we'll be safe.

Prayer For The Church And For The World

Call To Prayer

Alleluia

Silent Prayer

Prayer Requests

After each request, the worship leader will say "For this, let us pray"
and all are invited to respond, "*Gracious God, receive our prayers.*"

Pastoral Prayer

A Time For Thanksgiving

Offering

We come to that time in the service where we take the financial offering. If you are visiting us today, please feel no obligation to participate. This service is our gift to you

Offertory Music

Moderato con moto

C. Franck

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Dedication of Offering

* **Hymn** **Lead On Eternal Sovereign**

* **Benediction**

Benediction Response

Wonderful Peace

W. Runyan

Peace, peace, peace;
God's wonderful peace
Be with you now and ever more.
Amen.

**Thank you for reading the Order of Service
for this week's Worship Service.**

Please join us on any Sunday at 10:00 am.

No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here!