



Confirmation, Reception & Reaffirmation



Christ & St. Luke's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is the formal process of joining the Episcopal Church, and thus, Christ & St. Luke's. The Book of Common Prayer tells us: "Confirmation is the rite in which we express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a Bishop." If you are coming from another Christian denomination and have already been baptized, you may be confirmed or **received** into the Episcopal Church by the Bishop. Those who are confirmed members of the Episcopal Church can reaffirm their baptismal vows in the **Reaffirmation** rite. Confirmation is particularly appropriate for youth and young adults who were baptized in an Episcopal church as infants or small children and would like to make a mature declaration of their faith. **Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation** are offered at Christ & St. Luke's at one service conducted by the Bishop each year during the Bishop's Annual Visitation.



Which rite is for you?

Confirmation

...is for those who have been baptized, but never confirmed; or confirmed in a Christian denomination without a bishop in apostolic succession.

Reception

...is for those who have been confirmed in a Christian denomination by a bishop in apostolic succession.

Reaffirmation

...is for those who are already confirmed members of the Episcopal Church, but who would like to reaffirm their faith commitment and have the Bishop lay hands on their head and pray for the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

How does it work?

In each of the rites above, you kneel before the Bishop who will then, with differing prayers, confirm or receive you into the Church, or bless your reaffirmation of baptismal vows.

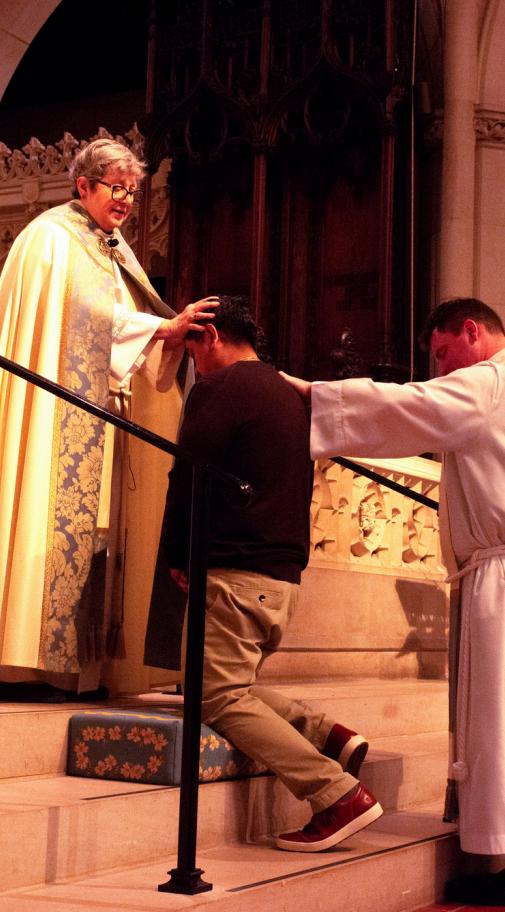
Adult Candidates for Confirmation or Reception must participate in the Episcopal 101 course offered each Fall. Youth Confirmation Candidates will complete a youth-specific preparation course.



The Confirmation process

The first step is to inquire about Confirmation, Reception, or Reaffirmation with a member of the clergy. Please reach out to The Rev. Jared Grant (jared.grant@christandstlukes.org) with initial inquiries. As noted, these rites are offered during the Bishop's annual visitation. Depending on when you reach out, the timeline from inquiry to confirmation can be anywhere from 6–12 months. The Bishop's visit is typically in the late fall, but varies from year to year. **It is advised that you reach out no later than early summer to begin the Confirmation process.**

Your initial conversation with a member of the clergy will outline the Confirmation/Reception preparation that will be a part of your process. After your initial conversation, you may complete the Application for Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation. You may apply online at christandstlukes.org/confirmation.



Checklist and timeline

- 6-12 Months Out:** Inquire about Confirmation, Reception, or Reaffirmation with a member of clergy
- 6-12 Months Out:** Submit the "Application for Confirmation, Reception, Reaffirmation"
- 3-4 Months Out:** Attend the appropriate prep course outlined by the clergy
- Near the day of the Bishop's visit:** Attend the required rehearsal, and then join or reaffirm your place in the life of the Church!

Preparation courses

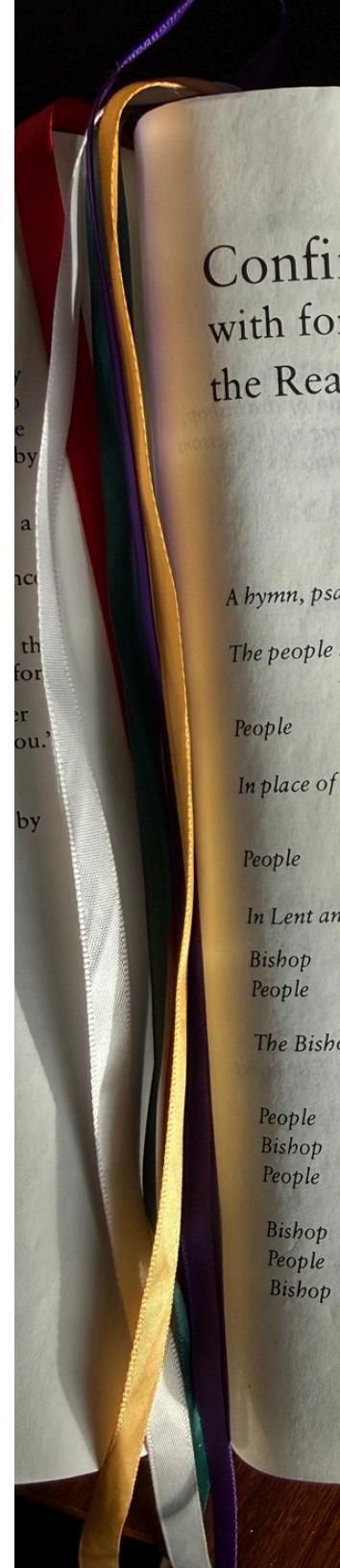
Going back to the Early Church, it has been tradition for candidates for rites of initiation, including Baptism, Confirmation, and Reception, to spend a specific period of time in preparation and study before participating in their various rites. At Christ & St. Luke's, we honor that tradition with a formal preparation process for our candidates. Your initial conversation with the clergy will outline what sort of preparation is best for you.

Episcopal 101

Episcopal 101 is our standard preparation for adults seeking Confirmation, Reception, or Reaffirmation. This course is offered once a year, typically 2-3 months before the Bishop's annual visitation. Generally, this means that the course is offered in early Fall. Facilitated by clergy and staff members, participants spend time learning about the essentials of life in the Episcopal Church. Since those who will be confirmed or received will become official members of the Episcopal Church, this course is designed to highlight some of the specifics of the denomination's beliefs and practices.

Youth Confirmation

As noted above, Confirmation is particularly appropriate for youth who were baptized as infants or small children in any denomination, and who would like to make a mature declaration of their faith. This is generally appropriate around age 16 and beyond. Youth interested in Confirmation will spend a time of preparation with other youth from Christ & St. Luke's and the diocese. Additionally, Youth are welcome to participate in the Episcopal 101 class. Reach out to Kathy Hanna with questions about youth specific Confirmation preparation (kathy.hanna@christandstlukes.org).



Take a dip into Baptism

This separate course is specifically designed for adults seeking Baptism and for the families of infants and children seeking Baptism. While it does not fulfill the preparation requirements for Confirmation or Reception, it is a wonderful way to explore the rite of Baptism in depth-a worthy endeavor for any Christian! You must be baptized before you are confirmed. The course is offered twice a year: once in the fall (Sept./Oct.) and once in the winter (Feb./Mar.).

The Baptismal Covenant

Celebrant Do you believe in God the Father?

People I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

Celebrant Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People 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.

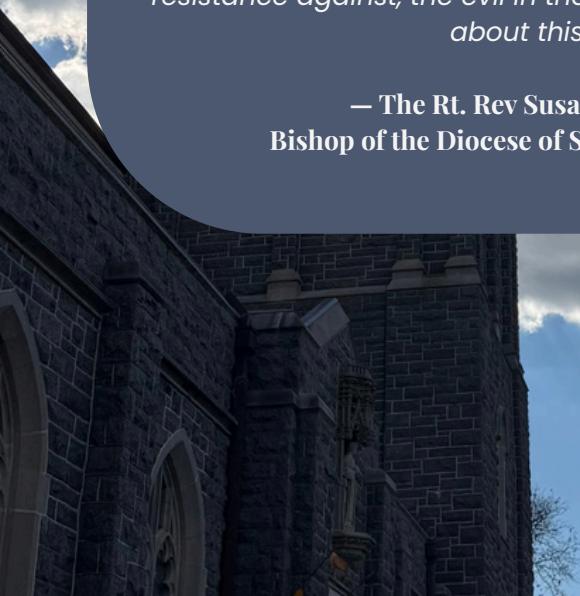
On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven.



“Any sacrament permanently changes a person’s soul, it marks them to be something different. The sacrament of Confirmation is when you make an adult affirmation of your faith. I like to talk to people about how it’s countercultural because what you are doing is saying, ‘I embrace everything the Christian faith says, which is counter to the world, and I stand against, as an act of resistance against, the evil in the world, and I am serious about this.’”

— The Rt. Rev Susan Haynes,
Bishop of the Diocese of Southern Virginia



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