

Affirmation Service (within a regular church service)

A model liturgical resource for affirmation follows. This would normally be inserted at the end of the intercessions. Where appropriate, people so affirmed may also be given some form of identification (a certificate, name badge, business card) denoting that they are authorised. The officiant, which is usually the Incumbent but may be the Archdeacon, Area Dean or Chaplain, says in these or similar words:

For lay ministries predominantly within the church community:

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we are all baptised by the one Spirit into one body and given gifts for a variety of ministries for the common good.

OR for lay ministries predominantly in the wider community such as a hospital:

Brothers and sisters in Christ, in the mission of Jesus Christ we are gathered by God's word and table, and sent out to do God's work of healing, justice, and peace. Today that rhythm unfolds in our midst.

Our purpose today is to affirm and bless these people as they serve God in [name of ministry].

The officiant describes the ministry and then continues

Do you believe that God has called you to this ministry within this church/community?

Candidate(s) I do so believe.

Will you be faithful in prayer and study so that you are better equipped for this ministry?

Candidate(s) By the help of God, I will.

Will you try to share the good news of Jesus Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit live your life according to Christ's teaching?

Candidate(s) By the help of God, I will.

Will you, as long as you are engaged in this work, perform it with care, to the honour of God and for the good of his Church?

Candidate(s) By the help of God, I will.

The officiant addresses the congregation.

Will you encourage, support, and pray for N (or NN) in this ministry?

Congregation **We will.**

The officiant continues,

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, gracious God, our creator and redeemer.

In every age you call people to minister in your name.

May the work of this/these your servant/s so build up your Church,
that we may faithfully serve you and show your love in all the world.

Blessed are you, O God,
now and for ever.
Amen.

The officiant may say,

N (or NN), the Lord bless you, enable you, and uphold you in this ministry.

A certificate or other significant document may be presented and the following words may be used:

Receive this [document] as a sign of the authority given to you and the trust placed in you by the Church of God.

Amen.

The prayers may conclude with this collect.

Almighty God,
by your grace alone
we are accepted and called to your service.
Strengthen us by your Holy Spirit
and make us worthy of our calling;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Celebration of Lay Ministries 2026