

Confirmation Sunday

May 3, 2026

Rev. Susie Putzke

There's a phrase I want you to hold onto today, especially you who are being confirmed:

“Become who you already are.”

That might sound strange at first. Usually we think confirmation is about deciding who we *will be*. But in the life of faith, we begin somewhere before that, somewhere deeper than that. Our life of faith starts before you chose anything, before you said yes or no, before you understood it fully. Before you asked your questions, before you knew how to form a question, God chose you. God moved toward you. God knew you and God declared you good.

God named you, claimed you and called you beloved (your families, your church probably also want to take a little credit here), but you were, are and will continue to be beloved! Our scripture gives us words for this identity: **“See what love go God has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are.”**

Not *might be*. Not *someday will be*.

That is who we are. So, the invitation for us all today is to, “Become who you already are.” Children of God. You already belong. And you are still becoming. And this story of grace precedes you.

The Word made flesh. God was there from the beginning.

The Spirit hovered over the waters at creation. In the stories of Jesus' baptism it is written that the heavens opened up and a dove descended on the water and Jesus felt the presence of the Holy Spirit. It is unclear how many others outside of Jesus witnessed or experienced this, but he was moved. And so have each of us been moved, tugged or touched by the Holy Spirit.

In every generation, God has been consistent and persistent. Relentlessly moving toward each of us. We hope you see that your lives are part of that same story. So confirmation is not the end of something. It's a moment where you say: “I will live into what God has already said is true about me.” That we are God's beloved. That we are claimed in baptism. That we are part of the Body of Christ. It is leaning into this call of becoming who you already are.

That's what it means to be a prophetic people. Not predicting the future like a fortune teller, but pointing to a future that hasn't fully arrived yet. One that is rooted in God's grace.

Every time someone forgives when it would be easier to hold a grudge...

Every time someone stands up for another person...

Every time love shows up where it wasn't expected...

So what does that look like?

It looks like paying attention to those glimmers of hope.

It looks like trusting that God is still at work in you even when you don't feel it.

It looks like speaking about what you've experienced, because it is our call as people of faith to speak of the ways we've encountered God and of the ways God has been our sustainer, redeemer and friend.

Becoming who you are is to live into, lean into your belovedness and help others to see it in themselves and in those around them. And it looks like remembering this: You are not doing this alone. We live out our life of faith with courage and doubt, with faith and fear, with clarity and confusion. Just as we all held the questions and pillars of our faith throughout this season of confirmation together, this church forms an even larger community in which we can share in this call together.

Scripture is holy. Not because it's neat and perfect, but because it tells the truth about real encounters between human beings and the living God. May we all be reminded of our belovedness in the eyes of God this day, our value in this church community and in the world. Today, we celebrate not just your confirmation...Not just the vows your parents made on your behalf but the ones you claim for yourself. Today we celebrate God's ongoing work in you and through you and amidst all of us.

A work that began with water,
a work that is sustained by grace,
Blessings in your becoming.