

**ENTRY OF THE BRIDE**

**THE WELCOME**

*Reverend Chris Lawton*

*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you*

**(All) And also with you**

*God is love, and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them*

**(All) God of wonder and of joy, grace comes from you, and you alone are the  
source of life and love.**

**Without you, we cannot please you; without your love, our deeds are worth  
nothing.**

**Send your Holy Spirit,  
and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, that we may worship  
you now with thankful hearts and serve you always with willing minds;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## **HYMN**

**(Chorus)**

**All things bright and beautiful  
All creatures great and small  
All things wise and wonderful  
'Twas God that made them all**

**Each little flower that opens  
Each little bird that sings  
He made their glowing colors  
And made their tiny wings**

**The purple headed mountains  
The rivers running by  
The sunset and the morning  
That brightens up the sky**

**The cold wind in the winter  
The pleasant summer sun  
The ripe fruits in the garden  
He made them every one**

**He gave us eyes to see them  
And lips that we might tell  
How great is the Almighty  
Who has made all things well**

## THE PREFACE

## THE DECLARATIONS

*Will you, the families and friends of Alexander and Mary Rose, support and uphold them in their marriage now and in the years to come?*

**(All ) We will.**

## THE COLLECT

*God our Father, from the beginning you have blessed creation with abundant life. Pour out your blessings upon Alexander and Mary Rose, that they may be joined in mutual love and companionship, in holiness and commitment to each other. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.*

**(All) Amen.**

## THE MARRIAGE

### THE VOWS

*Heavenly Father, by your blessing let these rings be to Alexander and Mary Rose a symbol of unending love and faithfulness, to remind them of the vow and covenant which they have made this day through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**(All) Amen.**

## THE PROCLAMATION

## THE BLESSING OF THE MARRIAGE

*Blessed are you, O Lord our God, for you have created joy and gladness, pleasure and delight, love, peace and fellowship. Pour out the abundance of your blessing upon Alexander and Mary Rose in their new life together. Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts and a crown upon their heads.*

*Bless them in their work and in their companionship; awake and asleep, in joy and in sorrow, in life and in death. Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that banquet, where your saints feast for ever in your heavenly home. We ask this through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.*

**(All) Amen.**

*God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve and keep you; the Lord mercifully grant you the riches of his grace, that you may please him both in body and soul, and living together in faith and love, may receive the blessings of eternal life.*

**(All) Amen.**

## FIRST READING

*Sonnet 116: Let me not to the marriage of true minds by William Shakespeare,  
read by Eugenie Ropner*

Let me not to the marriage of true minds admit impediments. Love is not  
love which alters when it alteration finds, or bends with the remover to  
remove. O no! It is an ever-fixed mark that looks on tempests and is never  
shaken; It is the star to every wand'ring back, whose worth's unknown,  
although his height to be taken. Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and  
cheeks within his bending sickle's compass come; Love alters not with his  
brief hours and weeks, but bears it out even to the edge of doom.  
If this be error and upon me prov'd, I never writ, nor no man ever lov'd.

## HYMN

And did those feet in ancient time  
Walk upon England's mountains green?  
And was the holy Lamb of God  
On England's pleasant pastures seen?  
And did the countenance divine  
Shine forth upon our clouded hills?  
And was Jerusalem builded here  
Among those dark satanic mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold!  
Bring me my arrows of desire!  
Bring me my spear: o clouds unfold!  
Bring me my chariots of fire!  
I will not cease from mental fight;  
Nor shall my sword sleep in my hand  
Till we have built Jerusalem  
In England's green and pleasant land.

## SECOND READING

*Song of Solomon, 2: 10-13 & 8: 6-7 read by Adam Montgomery*

My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away, for behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtle-dove is heard in our land.

The fig tree ripens its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away.

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death, jealousy as fierce as the grave.

Its flashes are flashes of fire, the very flame of the Lord. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it.

If a man offered for love all the wealth of his house, he would be utterly despised. This is the word of the Lord.

**(All) Thanks be to God.**

## **THE PRAYERS FOR THE MARRIAGE**

Each time the priest says the bidding “*Lord of Life and Love*”, the congregation is invited to respond with the words

**(All) “Hear our prayer”.**

**(All) 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 trespasses, as we  
forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
The power and the glory,  
For ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

## **REGISTRATION OF THE MARRIAGE**

### **FINAL BLESSING**

*God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.*

**(All) Amen.**

### **RECESSIONAL**

#### **THE DEPARTURE OF THE BRIDE AND GROOM**

*The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba - Handel*