


ORDER OF SERVICE



JAMES  
AND  
IMOGEN

WELCOME YOU TO  
THE CELEBRATION OF  
THEIR MARRIAGE

10TH JUNE, 2023 AT ONE IN THE AFTERNOON

**ST PETER & ST PAUL'S CHURCH**  
SHIPLAKE

**THE ENTRY OF THE COUPLE**

*Canon in D, Pachelbel*

**GREETING**

*In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.*

*Amen*

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

*The Revd Robert Thewsey*

*Let us pray*

**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**  
**Lord of all Hopefulness**

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy,  
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,  
be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,  
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,  
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,  
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,  
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

**THE PREFACE**

**FIRST READING**

*Reading by William Credland*  
*Ecclesiastes 4:9-12*

## THE DECLARATIONS

First, I am required to ask anyone present who knows a reason why these persons may not lawfully marry, to declare it now.

The vows you are about to take are to be made in the presence of God, who is judge of all and knows all the secrets of our hearts; therefore if either of you knows a reason why you may not lawfully marry, you must declare it now.

The president says to the bridegroom  
James, will you take Imogen to be your wedded wife?  
Will you love her, comfort her, honour and protect her,  
and, forsaking all others,  
be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

He answers  
I will.

The president says to the bride  
Imogen, will you take James to be your wedded husband?  
Will you love him, comfort him, honour and protect him,  
and, forsaking all others,  
be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

She answers  
I will.

The president says to the congregation  
Will you, the family and friends of James and Imogen  
support and uphold them  
in their marriage now and in the years to come?

**We will.**

## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### **SECOND READING**

*Extract from 'The Amber Spyglass' by Philip Pullman*

*Read by Charlie Scott*

### **SHORT HOMILY**

#### **HYMN**

#### **JERUSALEM**

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 chariot 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.

### **THIRD READING**

*Reading by Millie Scott*

*Song of Solomon 2:10-13*

## THE MARRIAGE

### THE VOWS

James and Imogen, we have heard God's word,  
revealing to us the meaning of Christian marriage.

Now, in the presence of God and his people,  
you are to join hands and declare your consent  
to become husband and wife.

The bride and bridegroom face each other.  
The bridegroom takes the bride's right hand in his, and says

I, James Andrew Credland, take you, Imogen Claire Scott,  
to be my wedded wife,  
to have and to hold from this day forward;  
for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
to love and to cherish, till death us do part;  
according to God's holy law.

In the presence of God I make this vow.

The bride takes the bridegroom's right hand in hers,  
and says

I, Imogen Claire Scott, take you, James Andrew Credland,  
to be my wedded husband,  
to have and to hold from this day forward;  
for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer,  
in sickness and in health,  
to love, and to cherish, till death us do part;  
according to God's holy law.

In the presence of God I make this vow.

They loosen hands

## THE GIVING OF RINGS

The priest receives the rings, and says

Heavenly Father, by your blessing, let these rings  
be to James and Imogen 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.

Amen

The bridegroom places the ring on the fourth finger of the bride's left hand,  
and holding it there, says

Imogen, I give you this ring  
as a sign of our marriage.  
With my body I honour you,  
all that I am I give to you,  
and all that I have I share with you,  
within the love of God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The bride places the ring on the fourth finger of the groom's left hand,  
and holding it there, says

James, I give you this ring  
as a sign of our marriage.  
With my body I honour you,  
all that I am I give to you,  
and all that I have I share with you,  
within the love of God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

## PROCLAMATION

In the presence of God, and before this congregation,  
James and Imogen have given their consent  
and made their marriage vows to each other.

They have declared their marriage by the joining of hands and by the giving  
and receiving of a ring.

I therefore proclaim that they are husband and wife.

The priest joins their right hands together and says:  
Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

**The congregation applaud the new couple!**

## PRAYERS

Let us all now pray for James and Imogen.

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 James and Imogen 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 the 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.

**Amen**



The president says to the couple

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.

**Amen**

Faithful God,  
holy and eternal,  
source of life and spring of love,  
we thank and praise you for bringing  
James and Imogen to this day,  
and we pray for them.

Lord of life and love.

**Hear our prayer.**

May their marriage be life-giving and life-long,  
enriched by your presence and strengthened by your grace;  
may they bring comfort and confidence to each other  
in faithfulness and trust.

Lord of life and love.

**Hear our prayer.**

May the hospitality of their home  
bring refreshment and joy to all around them;  
may their love overflow to neighbours in need  
and embrace those in distress.

Lord of life and love

**Hear our prayer.**

May they discern in your word  
order and purpose for their lives;  
and may the power of your Holy Spirit  
lead them in truth and defend them in adversity.

Lord of life and love.

**Hear our prayer.**

May they nurture their family with devotion,  
see their children grow in body, mind and spirit  
and may they come at last to the end of their lives  
with hearts content and in joyful anticipation of heaven.

Lord of life and love.

**Hear our prayer.**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name;**

**thy kingdom come;**

**they 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**

## HYMN - LORD OF THE DANCE

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,  
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,  
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth,  
at Bethlehem I had my birth.

*Dance, then, wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.  
And I'll lead you all wherever you may be,  
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,  
but they would not dance and they would not follow me;  
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;  
they came to me and the dance went on.  
Dance, then, wherever you may be...

I danced on the Sabbath when I cured the lame,  
the holy people said it was a shame;  
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me high;  
and they left me there on a cross to die.  
Dance, then, wherever you may be...

I danced on a Friday and the sky turned black;  
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back;  
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone,  
but I am the dance and I still go on.  
Dance, then, wherever you may be...

They cut me down and I leapt up high,  
I am the life that'll never, never die;  
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.  
Dance, then, wherever you may be...

## **FOURTH READING**

*by Oliver Credland*  
*'Always' by Lang Leav*

'You were you and I was I; we were two before our time. I was yours, before I knew and you have always been mine too'

## **BLESSING OF THE MARRIAGE**

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.

**Amen**

## **REGISTRATION OF THE MARRIAGE**

The bride and groom go immediately to sign  
the marriage document accompanied by witnesses.

**The congregation leaves the building.**