

## **The Preface**

Marriage is a gift of God in creation through which husband and wife may know the grace of God. It is given that as man and woman grow together in love and trust, they shall be united with one another in heart, body and mind, as Christ is united with his bride, the Church.

**All: The gift of marriage brings husband and wife together in delight and tenderness and in joyful commitment to the end of their lives. Marriage is given as the foundation of family life in which children are nurtured and in which each member of the family, in good times and bad, may find strength, companionship and comfort, and grow to maturity in love.**

Marriage is a way of life made holy by God, and blessed by the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ with those celebrating a wedding at Cana in Galilee.

**All: Marriage is a sign of unity and loyalty which all should uphold and honour. Marriage enriches society and strengthens community. No one should enter into it lightly or selfishly but reverently and responsibly in the sight of almighty God.**

Bevan and Sarah are now to enter this way of life. They will each give their consent to the other and make solemn vows and in token of this they will give and receive a ring. We pray with them that the Holy Spirit will guide and strengthen them, so that they may fulfil God's purposes for the whole of their earthly life together.

*The minister says to the congregation:*

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

*The minister says to the couple:*

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 Collect**

*The minister invites the people to pray:*

God our maker, from the beginning, you have blessed creation with abundant life. Pour out your blessings upon Bevan and Sarah, that they may be joined in mutual love and companionship, in holiness and commitment to each other. We ask this through our friend and companion Jesus Christ.

**All: Amen.**

### **The Declarations**

*The minister says to the bridegroom:*

Bevan, will you take Sarah to be your 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 minister says to the bride:*

Sarah, will you take Bevan to be your 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 minister says to the congregation:*

Will you, the families and friends of Bevan and Sarah, support and uphold them in their marriage now and in the years to come?

**All: We will.**

## **The Vows**

*The bridegroom takes the bride's right hand in his:*

I, Bevan Charles, take you,  
Sarah Catherine, to be my 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:*

I, Sarah Catherine, take you,  
Bevan Charles, to be my 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.

## **The Giving of Rings**

*The minister receives the rings, and says:*

Holy Spirit of God, by your blessing, may these rings be to  
Bevan and Sarah 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 bridegroom places the ring on the fourth finger  
of the bride's left hand and, holding it there, says:*

Sarah, 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.

*They loose hands and the bride places a ring on the fourth finger  
of the bridegroom's left hand and, holding it there, says:*  
Bevan, 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 Blessing of the Marriage**

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.**

### **Hymn**

I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above,  
entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love:  
the love that asks no question, the love that stands the test,  
that lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;  
the love that never falters, the love that pays the price,  
the love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

And there's another country I've heard of long ago,  
most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know;  
we may not count her armies, we may not see her King;  
her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;  
and soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,  
and her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are peace.

Cecil Spring-Rice

## **The Readings**

1 Corinthians 13 v4-8

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast,  
it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking,  
it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.  
It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

## **An Irish Blessing**

May your mornings bring joy and your evenings bring peace.

May your troubles grow few as your blessings increase.

May the saddest day of your future be no worse than the  
happiest day of your past.

May your hands be forever clasped in friendship  
and your hearts joined forever in love.

Your lives are very special, and God has touched you in many ways.

May his blessings rest upon you and fill all your coming days.

## **The Address**

### **Hymn**

Be still for the presence of the Lord,

The Holy One is here;

Come bow before Him now

With reverence and fear.

In Him no sin is found,

We stand on holy ground;

Be still, for the presence of the Lord,

The Holy One is here.

Be still, for the glory of the Lord  
Is shining all around;  
He burns with holy fire,  
With splendour He is crowned.  
How awesome is the sight,  
Our radiant King of light!  
Be still, for the glory of the Lord  
Is shining all around.

Be still, for the power of the Lord  
Is moving in this place;  
He comes to cleanse and heal,  
To minister His grace.  
No work too hard for Him,  
In faith receive from Him;  
Be still, for the power of the Lord  
Is moving in this place.

David J. Evans

### **Prayers**

God of brightness and joy, you send your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of all your people. Open the hearts of these your servants to the riches of his grace, that they may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

Graceful God, friend and companion, look in favour on Bevan and Sarah, and all who are made one in marriage. In your love, deepen their love and strengthen their wills to keep the promises they have made, that they may continue in life long faithfulness to each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

Faithful God, giver of all good things, give us wisdom and devotion in the ordering of our lives together. May we remain in love and peace all our days, seeking one another's welfare, bearing one another's burdens and sharing one another's joys; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:*

**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.**

### **The Dismissal**

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.**

## 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 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.

William Blake

The congregation sits while the Wedding Registers  
are signed by the couple and witnesses.

All stand as the recessional music commences,  
to greet the newly married couple.