

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.**

The Preface and Declarations

In the presence of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we have come together to witness the marriage of HELEN RUTH BURKE and ASHLEY CREDICOTT, to pray for God's blessing on them, to share their joy and to celebrate their love.

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.

The gift of marriage brings husband and wife together in the delight and tenderness of sexual union and joyful commitment to the end of their lives. It is given as the foundation of family life in which children are born and nurtured and in which each member of the family, in good times and in 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. Marriage is a sign of unity and loyalty which all should uphold and honour. It enriches society and strengthens community.

No one should enter into it lightly or selfishly but reverently and responsibly in the sight of almighty God.

HELEN and ASHLEY 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 [each] give and receive a ring. We pray with them that the Holy Spirit will guide and strengthen them, that they may fulfil God's purposes for the whole of their earthly life together.

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.

(Bridegroom)

ASHLEY, will you take HELEN 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?

(Ash) *I will.*

(Bride)

HELEN, will you take ASHLEY 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?

(HELEN) *I will.*

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

(Congregation) *We Will.*

THE COLLECT

God our Father, from the beginning you have blessed creation with abundant life. Pour out your blessings upon Reggie and Caroline, 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 forever.

(All) *Amen*

FIRST READING

A reading from Ephesians 5:21-31. by Samantha Langdon

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Saviour. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church for we are members of his body. "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."

SECOND READING

A reading from 1 Corinthians 13, by Grace Burke

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour 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.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled;

Chap where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

*For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes,
what is in part disappears.*

*When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a
child.*

When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me.

For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face.

Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.

But the greatest of these is love.

THE ADDRESS

The Rev'd Paul Andrew Chap RN

'It's All About Love'

HYMN

Love Divine, All Love's Excelling - by Charles Wesley

**Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heav'n to earth come down,
fix in us Thy humble dwelling;
all Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion;
pure, unbounded love Thou art;
visit us with Thy salvation;
enter ev'ry trembling heart.**

**Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit;
let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning;
set our hearts at liberty**

**Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all Thy life receive;
suddenly return and never,
nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
pray and praise Thee without ceasing,
glory in Thy perfect love.**

**Finish then Thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see Thy great salvation
perfectly restored in Thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before Thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

THE MARRIAGE & THE GIVING OF RINGS

THE VOWS

ASHLEY and HELEN, I now invite you to join hands and make your vows, in the presence of God and his people.

*(The bride and bridegroom face each other.
The bridegroom takes the bride's right hand in his).*

"I, ASH, take you, HELEN, 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 groom's right hand in hers, and says)

I, HELEN RUTH BURKE, take you, ASHLEY CREDICOTT, 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 this prayer)

Heavenly Father, by your blessing let these rings be to HELEN and ASH, 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)

HELEN, 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 bride's left hand and, holding it there, says)

ASHLEY, 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 PROCLAMATION

In the presence of God, and before this congregation, ASH and HELEN 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 rings.

(The minister joins their right hands together and says:)

Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder. I therefore proclaim that they are husband and wife. You may kiss the bride.

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 HELEN and ASH 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 forever.

(All) *Amen.*

(The minister 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.

(All) *Amen.*

HYMN

Jerusalem - by Hubert Parry

**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.**

THE REGISTRATION OF THE MARRIAGE

'Honour' – Written by Hans Zimmer

'Oceans (Where feet may fall)' – Written by Hillsong United

'Nuvole Bianche' – Written by Ludovico Einaudi

PRAYERS

(The responses at the end of each prayer are)

Lords of life and love

(All) ***Hear our Prayer***

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.