

## **FIRST READING**

### **UNION**

by Robert Fulghum

Read by Rosemary Nicholson

You have known each other from the first glance of acquaintance to this point of commitment. At some point, you decided to marry. From that moment of yes, to this moment of yes, indeed, you have been making commitments in an informal way.

All of those conversations that were held in a car, or over a meal, or during long walks — all those conversations that began with, 'When we're married', and continued with 'I will' and 'you will' and 'we will' — all those late night talks that included 'someday' and 'somehow' and 'maybe' — and all those promises that are unspoken matters of the heart. All these common things, and more, are the real process of a wedding.

The symbolic vows that you are about to make are a way of saying to one another, 'You know all those things that we've promised, and hoped, and dreamed — well, I meant it all, every word.' Look at one another and remember this moment in time. Before this moment you have been many things to one another — acquaintance, friend, companion, lover, dancing partner, even teacher, for you have learned much from one another these past few years.

Shortly you shall say a few words that will take you across a threshold of life, and things between you will never quite be the same.

For after today, you shall say to the world — This is my husband.  
This is my wife

## **SECOND READING**

### **Colossians Chapter 3, verses 12-17**

Read by Reverend Angela Mann

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,  
clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness,  
humility, meekness, and patience.

Bear with one another and,  
if anyone has a complaint against another,  
forgive each other;  
just as the Lord has forgiven you,  
so you also must forgive.

Above all, clothe yourselves with love,  
which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,  
to which indeed you were called in the one body.

And be thankful.

Above all, clothe yourselves with love,  
which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,  
to which indeed you were called in the one body.

And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly;  
teach and admonish one another in all wisdom;  
and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns,  
and spiritual songs to God.

And whatever you do, in word or deed,  
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,  
giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Thanks be to God

## SERMON

### HYMN

#### LORD OF THE DANCE

By Sidney Carter

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.

#### *Refrain*

***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 wouldn't follow me.  
I danced for the fishermen,  
for James and John -  
they came with me  
and the dance went on.

#### *Refrain*

I danced on the Sabbath  
and I cured the lame;  
the holy people  
said it was a shame.  
they whipped and they stripped  
and they hung me on high,  
and they left me there  
on a Cross to die.

***Refrain***

I danced on a Friday  
when 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.

***Refrain***

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.

***Refrain***

**THE MARRIAGE**

The Vows  
The Giving of the Rings  
The Proclamation of the Marriage  
The Blessing of the Marriage