

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:

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 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:

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.

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,
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.

The Preface

We have come together in the presence of God, to witness the marriage of David and Jo, to ask his blessing on them, and to share in their joy. Our Lord Jesus Christ was himself a guest at a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and through his Spirit he is with us now.

The Bible teaches us that marriage is a gift from God in creation and a means of his grace, a holy mystery in which man and woman become one flesh. It is God's purpose that, as husband and wife give themselves to each other in love throughout their lives, they shall be united in that love as Christ is united with his Church.

Marriage is given, that husband and wife may comfort and help each other, living faithfully together in need and in plenty, in sorrow and in joy. It is given, that with delight and tenderness they may know each other in love, and, through the joy of their bodily union, may strengthen the union of their hearts and lives. It is given as the foundation of family life in which children may be born and nurtured in accordance with God's will, to his praise and glory.

In marriage husband and wife belong to one another, and they begin a new life together in the community. It is a way of life that all should honour; and it must not be undertaken carelessly, lightly, or selfishly, but reverently, responsibly, and after serious thought. This is the way of life, created and hallowed by God, that David and Jo are now to begin. They will each give their consent to the other; they will join hands and exchange solemn vows, and in token of this they will each give and receive a ring.

Therefore, on this their wedding day we pray with them, that, strengthened and guided by God, they may fulfil his purpose for the whole of their earthly life together.

The Declarations

(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 minister says to the bridegroom)

David James, will you take Joanne 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)

Joanne, will you take David James 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 David James and
Joanne,
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 David and Jo,
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.

Readings

Apache Wedding Poem - Thomas Williams

Now you will feel no rain,
for each of you will be shelter for the other.

Now you will feel no cold,
for each of you will be warmth to the other.

Now there will be no loneliness,
for each of you will be a companion to the other.

Now you are two persons,
but there is only one life before you.

May beauty surround you both
in the journey ahead and through all the years.

May happiness be your companion
and your days together be good and long upon the earth.

1 Corinthians 13 - Gina Beale

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; 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 Sermon

The Marriage

Who gives this woman to be married to this man?

The Vows

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

I, David James, take you, Joanne,
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.

I, Joanne, take you, David James,
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

Heavenly Father, by your blessing
let these rings be to David and Jo
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.

Jo, 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.

David, 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,
David and Jo 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.
I therefore proclaim that they are husband and wife.

Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

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.

Registration of Marriage

Largo from “Winter” by Vivaldi
played by Gerry Hopkin

Hymn

Morning has Broken

Morning has broken,
Like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken
Like the first bird;
Praise for the singing,
Praise for the morning,
Praise for them springing
Fresh from the Word.

Sweet the rain's new fall,
Sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dewfall
On the first grass;
Praise for the sweetness,
Of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness
Where his feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight,
Mine is the morning,
Born of the one light
Eden saw play;
Praise with elation,
Praise every morning,
God's re-creation
Of the new day.

The Prayers

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

Silence

Lord of life and love:

(All) 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.

Silence

Lord of life and love:

(All) 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

Silence

Lord of life and love:

(All) 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.

Silence

Lord of life and love:

(All) hear our prayer.

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

Silence

Lord of life and love:

(All) hear our prayer.

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

(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.