

Order of Service

Bride enters to: Can't help falling in Love

(Elvis Presley)

Welcome

Reverend Rachel Wakefield

Hymn

All Things Bright & Beautiful

(Royal Oak)

Chorus:

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colours,
He made their tiny wings:

Chorus

The purple-headed mountain,
The river running by,
The sunset, and the morning
That brightens up the sky:

Chorus

The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
He made them every one:

Chorus

The tall trees in the greenwood,
The meadows where we play,
The rushes by the water
We gather every day:

Chorus

He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell
How great is God almighty,
Who has made all things well:

Chorus

Preface

The Christian understanding of Marriage is described

The Declarations

The couple declare their consent and commitment to each other, and the people affirm their prayerful support.

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

Peter, will you take *Emily* 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

Emily, will you take *Peter* 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 *Emily* and *Peter*, support and uphold them in their marriage now and in years to come?

All We Will

The Collect

The minister invites the people to pray, silence is kept and the minister says the Collect

God our Father, from the beginning
you have blessed creation with abundant life.
Pour out your blessings upon *Emily* and *Peter*,
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.

Reading

Philippians Ch4 Verses 4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Reading

Never Marry But For Love (*William Penn 1644-1718*)

Never marry but for love; but see that thou lovest what is
lovely.

He that minds a body and not a soul
has not the better part of that relationship,
and will consequently lack the noblest comfort of a
married life.

Between a man and his wife nothing ought to rule but
love.

As love ought to bring them together,
so it is the best way to keep them well together.

A husband and wife that love one another
show their children that they should do so too.
Others visibly lose their authority in their families
by their contempt of one another,
and teach their children to be unnatural by their own
examples.

Let not enjoyment lessen, but augment, affection;
it being the basest of passions to like when we have not,
what we slight when we possess.

Here it is we ought to search out our pleasure,
where the field is large and full of variety, and of an
enduring nature;
sickness, poverty or disgrace being not able to shake it
because it is not under the moving influences of worldly
contingencies.

Nothing can be more entire and without reserve;
nothing more zealous, affectionate and sincere;
nothing more contented than such a couple,
nor greater temporal felicity than to be one of them.

Hymn

Lord and Lover of Creation (*Westminster Abbey*)

Lord and lover of creation,
bless the marriage witnessed now:
sign of lives no longer separate,
sealed by symbol, bound by vow,
celebrating love's commitment
made to live and last and grow.

Praise and gratitude we offer,
for the past which shaped today.
Words which stirred and deepened conscience,
family life, good company,
friends who touched and summoned talent,
nourished all words can't convey.

On your children wed and welcome
here among us, we request
health in home and hearts, and humour
through which heaven and earth are blessed;
open doors and human pleasure,
time for touch and trust and rest.

Take them hence that, in each other,
love fulfilling love shall find
much to share and more to treasure,
such that none dare break or bind
those your name has joined together,
one in body, heart and mind.

The Vows

The couple join hands and make their marriage vows to each other.

The Giving of rings

The couple exchange rings as a sign of their marriage.

The Proclamation

The marriage is proclaimed.

The minister addresses the people

In the presence of God, and before this congregation, *Emily and Peter* 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.

The minister joins their right hands together and says

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

The Blessing of the Marriage

The husband and wife kneel. The minister may use the following blessing

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 *Emily* and *Peter* 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 for ever.

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.

Reading

1 Corinthians Ch 13

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly,* but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Signing the register

During which, *The One (Kodaline)* will be played

Prayers

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

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.

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.

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.
Lord of life and love:

All hear our prayer.

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

All hear our prayer.

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.