

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God**

**HYMN - Brother Sister Let Me Serve You**

1. Brother, sister let me serve you.  
Let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

2. We are pilgrims on a journey,  
and companions on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.

3. I will hold the Christ-light for you  
in the night-time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.

4. I will weep when you are weeping;  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow,  
till we've seen this journey through.

5. When we sing to God in heaven  
we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together  
of Christ's love and agony.

6. Brother, sister let me serve you.  
Let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

## THE PREFACE

### THE DECLARATIONS

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

**All: We will.**

**READING** - *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis (ch. on Christian Marriage)  
*Read by Vinesh and Kiran Mistry*

What we call 'being in love' is a glorious state, and, in several ways, good for us. It helps to make us generous and courageous, it opens our eyes not only to the beauty of the beloved but to all beauty...No one in his senses would deny that being in love is far better than either common sensuality or cold self-centredness.

But as I said before, 'the most dangerous thing you can do is take any one impulse of our own nature and set it up as the thing we ought to follow at all costs'. Being in love is a good thing, but it is not the best thing. There are many things below it, but there are also things above it. You cannot make it the basis of a whole life. It is a noble feeling, but it is still a feeling. Now, no feeling can be relied on to last in its full intensity, or even to last at all. Knowledge can last, principles can last, habits can last but feelings come and go.

And in fact, whatever people say, the state called 'being in love' usually does not last. If the old fairy-tale ending 'They lived happily ever after' is taken to mean 'They felt for the next fifty years exactly as they felt the day before they were married,' then it says what probably never was nor ever would be true, and would be highly undesirable if it were.

Who could bear to live in that excitement for even five years? What would become of your work, your appetite, your sleep, your friendships? But, of course, ceasing to be 'in love' need not mean ceasing to love. Love in this second sense — love as distinct from 'being in love' — is not merely a feeling. It is a deep unity, maintained by the will and deliberately strengthened by habit; reinforced by (in Christian marriages) the grace which both partners ask, and receive, from God.

They can have this love for each other even at those moments when they do not like each other; as you love yourself even when you do not like yourself. They can retain this love even when each would easily, if they allowed themselves, be 'in love' with someone else. 'Being in love' first moved them to promise fidelity: this quieter love enables them to keep the promise. It is on this love that the engine of marriage is run: being in love was the explosion that started it!

### **WASHING OF FEET**

Music: *What a Beautiful Name*

### **THE COLLECT**

God our Father, from the beginning you have blessed creation with abundant life.

Pour out your blessings upon Ajay and Anna,  
that they may be joined in mutual love and companionship,  
in holiness and commitment to each other.

We ask this through 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**

**READING** - The Gospel of Luke (*Luke 15:1-2,11-32*)

*Read by Becca Butler*

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

*The Parable of the Lost Son*

Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs.

He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' So he got up and went to his father.

But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' 'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God**

### **SHORT ADDRESS**

#### **HYMN - In Christ Alone**

1. In Christ alone, my hope is found	2. In Christ alone, who took on flesh
He is my light, my strength, my song	Fullness of God in helpless babe
This Cornerstone, this solid ground	This gift of love and righteousness
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm	Scorned by the ones He came to save
What heights of love, what depths of peace	'Til on that cross as Jesus died
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease	The wrath of God was satisfied
My Comforter, my All in All	For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the love of Christ I stand	Here in the death of Christ I live

3. There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day  
Up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

4. No guilt in life, no fear in death  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell, no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
Till He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

## **THE VOWS**

### **THE GIVING OF RINGS**

Heavenly Father, by your blessing  
let these rings be to Ajay and Anna  
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 PROCLAMATION**

### **THE BLESSING OF THE MARRIAGE**

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**

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**

## **PRAYERS**

*Each time the Vicar says: Lord of life and love*

**All: Hear our prayer**

*The Lord's 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**

## HYMN - Give Me Joy In My Heart

1. Give me joy in my heart, keep me  
praising,

Give me joy in my heart, I pray,  
Give me joy in my heart, keep me  
praising,

Keep me praising 'till the break of day.

3. Give me peace in my heart, keep me  
resting,

Give me peace in my heart, I pray,  
Give me peace in my heart, keep me  
resting,

Keep me resting 'till the end of day.

5. Give my oil in my lamp, keep me  
burning,

Give me oil in my lamp, I pray,  
Give my oil in my lamp, keep me burning,  
Keep me burning 'till the end of day.

7. Give me love in my heart, keep me  
serving,

Give me love in my heart, I pray.  
Give me love in my heart, keep me  
serving,

Keep me serving 'till the end of day.

2. Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,  
Sing hosanna to the King of kings!  
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,  
Sing hosanna to the King.

4. Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,  
Sing hosanna to the King of kings!  
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,  
Sing hosanna to the King.

6. Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,  
Sing hosanna to the King of kings!  
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,  
Sing hosanna to the King.

8. Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,  
Sing hosanna to the King of kings!  
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,  
Sing hosanna to the King!