

THE ENTRY OF THE BRIDE

THE WELCOME

The Rev. Derek Spears

*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you*

All: and also with you.

*God is love, and those who live in love live in God
and God lives in them.*

1 John 4.16

**All: God of wonder and of joy:
grace comes from you,
and you alone are the source of life and love.
Without you, we cannot please you;
without your love, our deeds are worth nothing.
Send your Holy Spirit,
and pour into our hearts
that most excellent gift of love,
that we may worship you now
with thankful hearts
and serve you always with willing minds;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen

HYMN

**Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, 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 every trembling heart.**

**Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temple leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy host 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 heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

THE PREFACE

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 that 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 these persons may not*

Lafely marry, you must declare it now

Angus Samuel, will you take Alice Louise 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

Alice Louise, will you take Angus Samuel 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.

*Will you, the families and friends of Alice and Angus, 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 Alice and Angus,
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

THE VOWS

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

Who brings this woman to be married to this man?

*I, Angus Samuel, take you, Alice Louise,
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, Alice Louise, take you, Angus Samuel,
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 THE RINGS

*Heavenly Father, by your blessing,
let these rings be to Alice and Angus
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

*Alice, 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.*

*Angus, 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 OF THE MARRIAGE

*In the presence of God, and before this congregation,
Alice and Angus 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

Blessed are you, heavenly Father.

All: You give joy to bridegroom and bride.

Blessed are you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All: You bring life to the world.

Blessed are you, Holy Spirit of God.

All: You bind us together in love.

Blessed are you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

*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 Alice and Angus 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.

*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.

SIGNING OF THE MARRIAGE DOCUMENT

READINGS

*"Yes, I'll marry you, my dear.
And here's the reason why:
So I can push you out of bed
When the baby starts to cry.
And if we hear a knocking
And it's creepy and it's late,
I hand you the torch you see,
And you investigate.*

*Yes, I'll marry you, my dear,
You may not apprehend it,
But when the tumble-drier goes
It's you that has to mend it.
You have to face the neighbour
Should our labrador attack him,
And if a drunkard fondles me
It's you that has to whack him.*

*Yes, I'll marry you, my dear,
You're virile and you're lean,*

*My house is like a pigsty
You can help to keep it clean.
That sexy little dinner
Which you served by candlelight,
As I do chipolatas,
You can cook it every night!!!*

*It's you who has to work the drill
And put up curtain track,
And when I've got PMT it's you who gets the flak,
I do see great advantages,
But none of them for you,
And so before you see the light,
I DO, I DO, I DO!!!"*

Pam Ayres

Song of Solomon 2.10-13; 8.6-7

My beloved speaks and says to me: 'Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtle dove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.'

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If one offered for love all the wealth of one's house, it would be utterly scorned.

Corinthians 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.

THE ADDRESS

HYMN

**God, in the planning and purpose of life,
hallowed the union of husband and wife:
this we embody where love is displayed,
rings are presented and promises made.**

**Jesus was found, at a similar feast,
taking the roles of both waiter and priest,
turning the worldly towards the divine,
tears into laughter and water to wine.**

**Therefore we pray that his spirit preside
over the wedding of bridegroom and bride,
fulfilling all that they've hoped will come true,
lighting with love all they dream of and do.**

**Praise then the Maker, the Spirit, the Son,
source of the love through which two are made one.
God's is the glory, the goodness and grace
seen in this marriage and known in this place.**

THE LIGHTING OF THE UNITY CANDLE

THE PRAYERS FOR THE MARRIAGE

Each time the priest says the bidding "*Lord of Life and Love*", the congregation is invited to respond with the words

"Hear our prayer".

*Faithful God,
holy and eternal,
source of life and spring of love,
we thank and praise you for bringing Alice and Angus 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

HYMN

**One more step along the world I go,
One more step along the world I go.
From the old things to the new
Keep me travelling along with you.
And it's from the old I travel to the new.
Keep me travelling along with you.**

**Round the corners of the world I turn,
More and more about the world I learn.
All the new things that I see
You'll be looking at along with me.**

Chorus

**As I travel through the bad and good
Keep me travelling the way I should.
Where I see no way to go
You'll be telling me the way, I know.**

Chorus

**Give me courage when the world is rough,
Keep me loving though the world is tough.
Leap and sing in all I do,
Keep me travelling along with you.**

Chorus

**You are older than the world can be,
You are younger than the life in me.
Ever old and ever new,
Keep me travelling along with you.**

Chorus