

**Deacon:** The Lord be with you.

**All:** And with your spirit.

**Deacon:** Dear brothers and sisters,  
We have come rejoicing into the house of the Lord for this celebration,  
And now we stand with Julia and Ben  
On the day they intend to form a home of their own.  
For them this is a moment of unique importance.  
So let us support them  
With our affection, with our friendship,  
And with our prayers as their brothers and sisters.  
Let us listen attentively with them  
To the word that God speaks to us today.  
Then, with the holy Church,  
Let us humbly pray to God the Father,  
Through Christ our Lord,  
For this couple, his servants,  
That he lovingly accept them,  
Bless them, And make them always one.  
Let us pray.  
Be attentive to our prayers, O Lord.  
And in your kindness pour out your grace on these  
your servants, Julia and Ben,  
That, coming together before your altar,  
They may be confirmed in love for one another.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

### **HYMN**

And did those feet in ancient time  
walk upon England's mountains green?  
And was the holy Lamb of God  
on England's pleasant pastures seen?  
And did the countenance divine  
shine forth upon our clouded hills?  
And was Jerusalem builded here  
among those dark Satanic Mills?

Bring me my bow of burning gold!  
Bring me my arrows of desire!  
Bring me my spear! O clouds, unfold!  
Bring me my chariot of fire!  
I will not cease from mental fight,  
nor shall my sword sleep in my hand,  
till we have built Jerusalem  
In England's green and pleasant Land.

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### **First Reading**

**Song of Songs 2:8-10, 14, 16a:8:6-7a**

read by Miranda Stewart

### **HYMN**

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,  
forgive our foolish ways;  
re clothe us in our rightful mind,  
in purer lives thy service find,  
in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard  
beside the Syrian sea  
the gracious calling of the Lord,  
let us, like them, without a word  
rise up and follow thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee,  
O calm of hills above,  
where Jesus knelt to share with thee  
the silence of eternity,  
interpreted by love!

Breathe through the heats of our desire  
thy coolness and thy balm;  
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,  
O still, small voice of calm!

**Second Reading**  
**Philippians 4: 4-9**  
read by Paula Low

**Gospel Acclamation**

*(All stand.)*

**All:** Alleluia, alleluia!  
Anyone who lives in love,  
Lives in God,  
And God lives in him.  
Alleluia!

**Deacon:** The Lord be with you.

**All:** And with your Spirit.

**Deacon:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

**All:** Glory to you, O Lord.

**Gospel Reading**  
**John 15: 9-12**

*(All sit.)*

**The Homily**

**THE CELEBRATION OF THE MARRIAGE**

**The Questions before the Consent**  
**The Civil Declaration of Freedom**  
**The Consent and the Reception of the Consent**  
**The Blessing and Exchange of Rings**

**Deacon:** My dear friends, as we call to mind the special gift of grace and charity, let us now present our prayers, both for continued blessings upon Ben and Julia, and also for the needs of others in the world.

*(All stand.)*

## **Bidding Prayers**

led by Margaret Cripps

**Margaret:** For Ben and Julia, now beginning their married life together, that they may have divine assistance at every moment, the constant support of friends, the rich blessing of children, a warm love reaching out to others, and good health until old age. Let us pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Margaret:** For Ben and Julia's family and friends, who have been there to support them through the years. Bless them with God's love and peace always. We pray that God may grant them the happiness that they seek. Let us pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Margaret:** For our loved ones who have gone ahead of us, that they may enjoy perfect happiness and the fullness of eternal life. In particular, we pray for Margaret & Anthony Cripps, Margaret & Samuel Mullin, John Cooper-Mullin, Douglas Hamilton, Margaret & Peter Sutton, and Tim Sutton. May God shower them with eternal love. Let us pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Margaret:** For those who are sick, lonely, discouraged, or oppressed, that they may be strengthened by God's help and aided by their friends. Let us pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Margaret:** Let us join with Mary, Mother of the Church, as we say:

**All:** Hail, Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou amongst women  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.