

READING

Like a River Finds the Sea by Whitney Hanson, read by Emily Bown

They say that sometimes
love starts with a spark.
And that might be true,
but if I were to wish you a love,
I wouldn't wish fire for you.

You see, fire is powerful.
It burns bright and then it's gone.
It's beautiful and warm,
but it doesn't last long.

So instead of wishing you
a love that burns,
I wish you a love like
a river twists and turns.

It changes and it flows,
It is powerful and free.
But it consistently finds its way
back to the sea

And so like the water,
I hope your love is ever growing,
ever changing.
I hope your love is powerful and free,
And may you always find each other,

Like a river finds the sea.

THE COLLECT

BIBLE READING

*Song of Solomon, Chapter 2, verses 10-13, from the Living Bible
read by Jenny King*

My beloved said to me, 'Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.

For the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.

The flowers are springing up
and the time of the singing of birds has come.

Yes, spring is here. The leaves are coming out,
and the grapevines are in blossom.

How delicious they smell!

Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

READING

A Poem About Love by Bianca Barrett, read by Sally Stenning

We have often been told
through movies and songs
That love is a many splendoured thing
And will lift us up where we belong

Though I won't deny Romeo the right
to make Juliet his wife
I think love is less about Shakespeare
and much more about real life

It's the hand squeeze under the table
when the nerves take hold
It's knowing what the other is thinking
without having to be told

When life's worries stand over you
in the middle of the night
It's a gentle voice finding its way
through the dark
that whispers 'It'll be alright'

If you can still find laughter
in the darkest of places
And love the wrinkles mapped out
on your ever-changing faces

If you can see past their flaws
to their evergreen heart
And accept that love is greater
than the sum of its parts

If you can master the one thing
prescribed by the wise
The saviour we like to call
'compromise'

I promise you won't need
a Shakespearean sonnet
Or a song sung by Danny Zuko
from his gleaming car bonnet

You'll have something far better
truly sent from above
Not a star-crossed romance
but a tale of real love

So let me say at your wedding
from the bottom of my heart
From what I have seen
you're off to a great start

May your blessings be many
and your troubles be few
I can't think of a better pair suited
than you.

HOMILY

The Revd Andrew Brown

HYMN

Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the holy One, is here;
come bow before him now
with reverence and fear
in him no sin is found
we stand on holy ground.

Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the holy One, is here.
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around;
he burns with holy fire,
with splendour he is crowned:
how awesome is the sight
our radiant king of light!

Be still, for the glory of the Lord
is shining all around.
Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place:
he comes to cleanse and heal,
to minister his grace -
no work too hard for him.
In faith receive from him.
Be still, for the power of the Lord
is moving in this place.

THE VOWS

THE GIVING OF THE RINGS

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

THE PROCLAMATION

THE BLESSING OF THE MARRIAGE

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 chariots 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.