

~ ENTRANCE ~

(Please stand as the couple enter)

'Spring I' from *'Vivaldi Recomposed'* – Max Richter (b.1966)

~ WELCOME ~

(Please be seated)

Jacqui Howard (Celebrant)

'Bogoroditse Dyevo' – Sergei Rachmaninoff (b.1873 – d.1943)

Богородице Дево, радуйся,
Благодатная Марие, Господь с тобою.
Благословена ты в женах,
и благословен плод чрева твоего,
яко Спаса родила еси душ наших.

*Rejoice, virgin mother of God,
Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb,
for you have borne the Savior of our souls.*

~ P R E F A C E ~
The Mystery of Missy

FIRST Reading
Read by Beth Mokrini

Name

When did your name
change from a proper noun
to a charm?
Its three vowels
like jewels
on the thread of my breath.
Its consonants
brushing my mouth
like a kiss.
I love your name.
I say it again and again
in this summer rain.
I see it,
discreet in the alphabet,
like a wish.
I pray it
into the night
till its letters are light.
I hear your name
rhyming, rhyming,
rhyming with everything.

Carol Ann Duffy (b.1955)

~ SPIRITUAL REFLECTION ~

'O taste and see' – Ralph Vaughan-Williams (b.1872 – d.1958)

*O taste and see how gracious the Lord is:
blessed is the man that trusteth in him.*

Psalm 34, v.5

SECOND Reading

Read by Melanie Frost

Two are better than one;
because they have a good reward for their labour.
For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow:
but woe to him that is alone when he falleth;
for he hath not another to help him up.
Again, if two lie together, then they have heat:
but how can one be warm alone?
And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him;
and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

THIRD Reading

Read by Michael Rizq

From *'For the Time Being'*

Our Father, whose creative Will
Asked Being for us all,

Confirm it that Thy Primal Love
May weave in us the freedom of
The actually deficient on
The justly actual.

Though written by Thy children with
A smudged and crooked line,
The Word is ever legible,
Thy Meaning unequivocal,
And for Thy Goodness even sin
Is valid as a sign.

Inflict Thy promises with each
Occasion of distress,
That from our incoherence we
May learn to put our trust in Thee,
And brutal fact persuade us to
Adventure, Art, and Peace.

W H Auden (b.1907 – d.1973)

PRAYER

Led by David Honeyball

HYMN

(Sung by the Choir only)

'Abide with me' – William Henry Monk (b.1823 – d.1889)

*Abide with me! fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide!
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.*

*I need Thy presence every passing hour:
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me.*

*I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless:
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness:
Where is death's sting? where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.*

*Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!*

Henry Francis Lyte (b.1793 – 1847)

~ V O W S ~

The couple read their own vows.

CONGREGATIONAL COMMITMENTS

The Celebrant asks the congregation to make their own vows and commitments. The following form of words will be used.

THE DECLARATIONS

Will you, the families and friends of Chris & Harry support and uphold them in their marriage now and in the years to come?

All: *We will.*

Will you support Chris & Harry in their relationship, through good times and bad?

All: *We will.*

Will you undertake to provide guidance, advice and counsel, as and when required?

All: *We will.*

Will you promise to be truthful and honest with them, even in circumstances that may be difficult?

All: *We will.*

Will you agree to share in their joy and love for as long as you are able?

All: *We will.*

PREPARATION

The choir descends

‘This Marriage’ – Ed Newton-Rex (b.1987)

May these vows and this marriage be blessed.

May it be sweet milk,

this marriage, like wine and halvah.

*May this marriage offer fruit and shade
like the date palm.*

*May this marriage be full of laughter,
our every day a day in paradise.*

*May this marriage be a sign of compassion,
a seal of happiness here and hereafter.*

*May this marriage have a fair face and a good name,
an omen as welcomes the moon in a clear blue sky.*

*I am out of words to describe
how spirit mingles in this marriage.*

Jalal al-Din Rumi (b.1207 – d.1273)

~ THE GIVING OF RINGS ~

The couple exchange rings, with the following words:

*I give you this ring
as a reminder of my love
I will honour and cherish you,
In sickness and in health,
In joy and in sorrow,
And I promise to love you and respect you,
All of the days of my life.*

~ THE PROCLAMATION ~

The Celebrant announces the legal union.

The couple are invited to kiss.

'O Sing Joyfully' – Adrian Batten (b.1561 – d.1637)

*O sing joyfully unto God our strength:
make a cheerful noise unto the God of Jacob.
Take the song, bring hither the tabret:
the merry harp with the lute.
Blow up the trumpet in the new-moon:
even in the time appointed, and upon our solemn feast-day.
For this was made a statute for Israel:
and a law of the God of Jacob.*