

THE ENTRY OF THE BRIDE

THE WELCOME

Fr Stephen Hoy

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.

HYMM

Come to a wedding,	Love is the gift,
Come to a blessing,	And love is the giver,
Come on a day when happiness sings!	Love is the gold that
Come rain or sun,	Makes the day shine;
Come winter or summer,	Love forgets self to care for the other,
Celebrate love and all that it brings.	Love changes life from water to wine.

Thanks for the love,	Come to this wedding,
That holds us together,	Asking a blessing,
Parent and child, and lover and friend;	For all the years that living will prove;
Thanks to the God,	Health of the body,
Whose love is our centre,	Health of the spirit,
Source of compassion, knowing no end.	Now to you both we offer our love.

Please be Seated

THE PREFACE

In the presence of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we have come together to witness the marriage of Lauren and Jonathon, to pray for God's blessing on them, to share their joy and to celebrate their love.

Marriage is a gift of God in creation through which husband and wife may know the grace of God. It is given that as man and woman grow together in love and trust, they shall be united with one another in heart, body and mind, as Christ is united with his bride, the Church. The gift of marriage brings husband and wife together in the delight and tenderness of sexual union and joyful commitment to the end of their lives.

It is given as the foundation of family life in which children are nurtured and in which each member of the family, in good times and in bad, may find strength, companionship and comfort, and grow to maturity in love.

Marriage is a way of life made holy by God and blessed by the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ with those celebrating a wedding at Cana in Galilee.

Marriage is a sign of unity and loyalty which all should uphold and honour. It enriches society and strengthens community. No one should enter into it lightly or selfishly but reverently and responsibly in the sight of almighty God. Lauren and Jonathon are now to enter this way of life. They will each give their consent to the other and make solemn vows, and in token of this they will each give and receive a ring. We pray with them that the Holy Spirit will guide and strengthen them, that they may fulfil God's purposes for the whole of their earthly life together.

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.

(to the couple) The vows 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 you may not lawfully marry, you must declare it now.

Jonathon, will you take Lauren 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?

Jonathon: I will.

Lauren, will you take Jonathon 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?

Lauren: I will.

Will you, Lauren and Jonathon's family and friends, support them and uphold them in their marriage, now and in the years to come?

All: We will

Let us pray:

God our Father, from the beginning you have blessed creation with abundant life. Pour out your blessings upon Jonathon and Lauren, 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 READING

A reading from St Paul's letter to the church at Corinth chapter 13

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. 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 Word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God

THE VOWS

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

Jonathon:
I, Jonathon, take you, Lauren
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.

Lauren:
I, Lauren, take you, Jonathon
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 BLESSING AND GIVING OF THE RINGS

Heavenly Father, by your blessing let these rings be to Jonathon and Lauren 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.

Amen

Jonathon: Lauren, 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.

Lauren: Jonathon, 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

Please stand

In the presence of God, and before this congregation, Jonathon and Lauren 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.

Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

Please be seated

THE BLESSING OF THE MARRIAGE

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 Jonathon and Lauren 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 in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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 in soul, and, living together in faith and love, may receive the blessing of eternal life. **Amen.**

REGISTRATION

HYMN

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 to the end of day.

Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the King of kings,
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, sing hosanna to the King

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 to the end of day.

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 to the end of day.

THE PRAYERS

Please be seated or kneel

Let us pray:

Faithful God, holy and eternal, source of life and spring of love, we thank and praise you for bringing Jonathon and Lauren to this day, May their marriage be 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.

Father of all, in Jesus Christ you open to us the treasures of your kingdom; guide us by your Holy Spirit, that we may receive your redeeming grace and reflect the perfect unity of your love, for you live and reign, one God, now and forever. **All: Amen**

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 forever and ever. Amen