

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Jan Struther (Joyce Placzek) 1901-1953

THE PREFACE

The minister explains the nature of marriage

THE DECLARATIONS

The minister says to the congregation

First, I am required to ask anyone present who knows a reason why these persons may not lawfully marry, to declare it now.

The minister says 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.

The minister says to the bridegroom

Hugh, will you take **Eleanor** 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? **I will.**

The minister says to the bride

Eleanor, will you take **Hugh** 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? **I will.**

Will you, the families and friends of **Hugh** and **Eleanor**
support and uphold them in their marriage now
and in the years to come? **We will.**

THE COLLECT

God our Father, from the beginning you have blessed creation with
abundant life.

Pour out your blessings upon **Hugh** and **Eleanor**,
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. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

A reading from the Old Testament

Song of Songs 2.10-17; 8:6-7, read by Catherine Day

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 turtledove
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.
O my dove, in the clefts of the rock,
in the covert of the cliff,
let me see your face;
let me hear your voice,
for your voice is sweet,
and your face is lovely.
Catch us the foxes,
the little foxes,
that ruin the vineyards—
for our vineyards are in blossom.”
My beloved is mine, and I am his;
he pastures his flock among the lilies.
Until the day breathes
and the shadows flee,
turn, my beloved, be like a gazelle
or a young stag on the cleft mountains.

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.

THE SERMON

Given by

The Revd Vic Van Den Bergh

HYMN

Be still for the presence

Be Still

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.

David J Evans b 1957
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SECOND READING

A Garden by Tash McGill, read by Faye Smith

Today, my love – I am giving you a meadow.
A meadow is a wonderful place to begin something new.
We have seen this full run of seasons;
summer, autumn, winter and spring
passed over in each other's eyes, held hand in hand
I know what seasons look like on your face
I am comforted, I am hopeful, I am sure.
So now in this summer, I give you a meadow
full of wildflower, full of promise
so we may begin in earnest.
Let me tell you – how I want to build you a garden here,
A corner devoted to each season –
There daffodils in spring, here falling leaves for autumn
From an oak tree that bends but cannot break in winter storms.
And every year, roses in summer
Blooming over and over, recounting the fragrance
by which I loved you first, and love you now.
I long to see the trees grow older and take their shape
Against the prevailing wind provide some shelter
For each sacred herb and flower, that may feed us
And to sit at the end of day beside you, always beside you.
Let us be entwined together, anchored securely in this earth
Never one removed from the other,
each bringing life to the other.
Today I am giving you a meadow,
Tomorrow I am making you a garden.

THE MARRIAGE

The couple make their vows in the presence of God and his people

THE GIVING OF RINGS

The minister receives the rings, and says this prayer

Heavenly Father, by your blessing
let these rings be to Hugh and Eleanor,
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.**

THE PROCLAMATION AND BLESSING OF THE MARRIAGE

The husband and wife kneel.

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 **Hugh** and **Eleanor**, 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. **Amen.**

The minister says to the couple

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. **Amen.**

THE REGISTRATION OF THE MARRIAGE

HYMN

Lord of the Dance

Shaker Tune

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth;
at Bethlehem I had my birth.

*Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,
but they would not dance and they would not follow me.
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
they came with me and the dance went on:

*Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;
the holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high;
they left me there on a cross to die:
Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone;
but I am the dance and I still go on:
Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

They cut me down and I leapt up high;
I am the life that will never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me:
I am the Lord of the Dance said he:
Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

Words and Music: Sydney Carter b.1915
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PRAYERS

The ministers says prayers for the couple

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us