

## HYMN

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,  
the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy  
health and salvation!  
All ye who hear,  
Now to His temple draw near;  
Sing now in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all  
things so wondrously reigneth,  
Who, as on wings of an eagle,  
uplifteth, sustaineth.  
Hast thou not seen  
How thy desires all have been  
Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who hath fearfully,  
wondrously, made thee!  
Health hath vouchsafed and, when  
heedlessly falling, hath stayed thee.  
What need or grief  
Ever hath failed of relief?  
Wings of His mercy did shade thee.

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper  
thy work and defend thee,  
Who from the heavens the streams of  
His mercy doth send thee.

Ponder anew  
What the Almighty can do,  
Who with His love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that  
is in me adore Him!  
All that hath life and breath, come  
now with praises before Him!  
Let the Amen  
Sound from His people again;  
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

## **PREFACE**

*The bride and bridegroom stand before the priest [all remaining standing]*

*The priest says*

We have come together in the presence of God, to witness the marriage of Josh and Ellie, to ask his blessing on them, and to share in their joy. Our Lord Jesus Christ was himself a guest at a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and through his Spirit he is with us now.

The Bible teaches us that marriage is a gift of God in creation and a means of his grace, a holy mystery in which man and woman become one flesh. It is God's purpose that, as husband and wife give themselves to each other in love throughout their lives, they shall be united in that love as Christ is united with his Church.

Marriage is given, that husband and wife may comfort and help each other, living faithfully together in need and in plenty, in sorrow and in

joy. It is given, that with delight and tenderness they may know each other in love, and, through the joy of their bodily union, may strengthen the union of their hearts and lives. It is given as the foundation of family life in which children may be born and nurtured in accordance with God's will, to his praise and glory.

In marriage husband and wife belong to one another, and they begin a new life together in the community. It is a way of life that all should honour; and it must not be undertaken carelessly, lightly, or selfishly, but reverently, responsibly, and after serious thought.

This is the way of life, created and hallowed by God, that Josh and Ellie are now to begin. They will each give their consent to the other; they will join hands and exchange solemn vows, and in token of this they will [each] give and receive a ring.

Therefore, on this their wedding day we pray with them, that, strengthened and guided by God, they may fulfil his purpose for the whole of their earthly life together.

*The congregation sits whilst Josh and Ellie remain standing*

## **THE DECLARATIONS**

*The priest says to the congregation*

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

*The priest 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 who 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 priest says to the bride*

Emmanuelle Rebecca Ford, will you take Joshua Luke Harper 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?

*She answers*

**I will.**

*The priest says to the bridegroom*

Joshua Luke Harper, will you take Emmanuelle Rebecca Ford 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?

*He answers*

**I will.**

*The priest says to the congregation*

Will you the families and friends of Joshua and Emmanuelle, support and uphold them in their marriage now and in the years to come?

All **We will**

## THE COLLECT

God our Father;  
from the beginning you have blessed creation with abundant life.  
Pour out your blessings upon Josh and Ellie,  
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 forever.  
Amen.

*Josh and Ellie sit*

## BIBLE READING

Colossians 3: 12-17

*Read by Katherine Wright*

12 As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. 13 Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

## SECOND READING

'On Love' by Thomas Kempis

*Read by Emily Moreton*

Love is a mighty power,  
a great and complete good.  
Love alone lightens every burden, and makes rough places smooth.  
It bears every hardship as though it were nothing, and renders  
all bitterness sweet and acceptable.

Nothing is sweeter than love,  
Nothing stronger,  
Nothing higher,  
Nothing wider,  
Nothing more pleasant,  
Nothing fuller or better in heaven or earth; for love is born of God.

Love flies, runs and leaps for joy.  
It is free and unrestrained.  
Love knows no limits, but ardently transcends all bounds.  
Love feels no burden, takes no account of toil,  
attempts things beyond its strength.

Love sees nothing as impossible,  
for it feels able to achieve all things.  
It is strange and effective,  
while those who lack love faint and fail.

Love is not fickle and sentimental,  
nor is it intent on vanities.

Like a living flame and a burning torch,  
it surges upward and surely surmounts every obstacle.

### **THE ADDRESS**

*Rev Richard Sandland*

### **HYMN**

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all Thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy grace receive;  
suddenly return, and never,  
never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then, thy new creation;  
pure and spotless let us be:  
let us see thy great salvation,  
perfectly restored in Thee;

Changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

## **THE MARRIAGE**

*Josh and Ellie stand in front of the Priest*

*The priest says:*

Who gives this woman to be married to this man?

*Tony says 'I do' and steps forward to pass Ellie's hand to Josh.*

## **VOWS**

*The priest says:*

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

*The bride takes the bridegroom's right hand in hers, and says*

I, Emmanuelle Rebecca Ford, take you, Joshua Luke Harper, 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.

*They loose hands.*

*The bridegroom takes the bride's right hand in his, and says*



I, Joshua Luke Harper, take you, Emmanuelle Rebecca Ford, 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.

*They loose hands.*

### THE GIVING OF RINGS

*The priest receives the rings from Josh's Groomsman, Josh Gwillam, and says this prayer*

Heavenly Father, by your blessing, let these rings be to Joshua and Emmanuelle 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.**

*Josh places a ring on Ellie's fourth finger, and holding it there, says*

Ellie, 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.

*Ellie places a ring on Josh's fourth finger, and holding it there, says*

Josh, 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

*The priest addresses the people.*

In the presence of God, and before this congregation, Josh and Ellie 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.

*The priest joins their right hands together and says*

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

### **THE BLESSING OF THE MARRIAGE**

*Josh and Ellie kneel and the priest blesses them*

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.**

Blessed are you, heavenly Father:

All **You give joy to bridegroom and bride.**

Blessed are you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All **You bring life to the world.**

Blessed are you, Holy Spirit of God.

All **You bind us together in love.**

Blessed are you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

### **REGISTRATION OF THE MARRIAGE**

*The wedding party moves into the Table for the signing of the Register,  
witnessed by Gabrielle Ernest and Matthew Swift*

*The congregation remains seated while music is played*

## THE PRAYERS

Faithful God,  
holy and eternal,  
source of life and spring of love,  
we thank and praise you for bringing Josh and Ellie  
to this day, and we pray for them.

Lord of life and love:

All **hear our prayer.**

May their marriage be life-giving and life-long,  
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.**

As our Savior taught us, so we pray

**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,**

**for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

### **HYMN**

Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing;

Tune my heart to sing Thy grace.

Streams of mercy, never ceasing,

Call for songs of loudest praise.

Teach me some melodious sonnet,

Sung by flaming tongues above.

Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it:

Mount of Thy redeeming love.

Here I raise my Ebenezer;

Hither by Thy help I'm come.

And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,

Safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger,