

The Preface and the Declarations

The minister says to the congregation:

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

All:

We will.

The Marriage

The Minnu

The minnu is a small gold pendant worn by married Christian women in Kerala. It is shaped like a leaf, with a cross made of beads on it. The minnu represents the love between the husband and wife and their union through Christ. The beads represent the fruits of the Spirit, which are: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

During the wedding ceremony, the groom ties the minnu on a thread around the bride's neck. This thread is later replaced by a gold chain.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5:22–23

The Proclamation of the Marriage

The Blessing of the Marriage

Here is love, vast as the ocean,
loving kindness as the flood,
when the Prince of life, our ransom,
shed for us his precious blood.
Who his love will not remember;
who can cease to sing his praise?
He can never be forgotten
throughout heaven's eternal days.

On the mount of crucifixion
fountains opened deep and wide:
through the floodgates of God's mercy
flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love, like mighty rivers,
poured incessant from above;
and heaven's peace and perfect justice
kissed a guilty world in love.

Let me, all your love accepting,
love you ever all my days;
let me seek your kingdom only
and my life be to your praise.
You alone shall be my glory,
nothing in the world I see;
you have cleansed and sanctified me,
you yourself have set me free.

When the stars shall fall from heaven,
and the sun turn black as night;
when the skies recede and vanish,
and the elements ignite,
then the Son of Man in glory,
coming as the Morning Star,
shall return to claim his loved ones,
gathered in from near and far.

William Rees (1802–1883), tr. by William Edwards (1848–1929)
vs 3 William Edwards, vs 4 Richard Bewes (1934–2019) *© Richard Bewes/Jubilate Hymns

Reading

Jonny Bodey

1 John 4:7–16

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

Sermon
Brian Elfick

Prayers

Tim Bodey, Andrew and Claire Dimond

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art—
thou my best thought, in the day or the night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;
I ever with thee, and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father, and I thy true son;
thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou, and thou only, be first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou bright heaven's Sun,
grant me its joys, after vict'ry is won;
heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my Vision, O ruler of all.