

THE WELCOME

The Rev'd Canon Arani Sen

A wedding is one of life's great moments, a time of solemn commitment as well as good wishes, feasting and joy. St John tells us how Jesus shared in such an occasion at Cana, and gave there a sign of new beginnings as he turned water into wine.

Marriage is intended by God to be a creative relationship, as his blessing enables husband and wife to love and support each other in good times and in bad, and to share in the care and upbringing of children. For Christians, marriage is also an invitation to share life together in the spirit of Jesus Christ. It is based upon a solemn, public and life-long covenant between a man and a woman, declared and celebrated in the presence of God and before witnesses.

On this their wedding day the bride and bridegroom face each other, make their promises and receive God's blessing.

You are witnesses of the marriage, and express your support by your presence and your prayers. Your support does not end today: the couple will value continued encouragement in the days and years ahead of them.

Rejoice in the Lord always;

again I will say, Rejoice.

Let your gentleness be known to everyone.

The Lord is near.

Do not worry about anything,

but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving

let your requests be made known to God.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,

will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:4-7

THE ENTRANCE OF THE BRIDE

The Prince of Denmark's March (Trumpet Voluntary)
Jeremiah Clarke

THE WELCOME

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.

THE OPENING PRAYER

HYMN

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer

William Williams, 1717-1791

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand:
 Bread of heaven,
 feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth flow;
 let the fiery cloudy pillar
 lead me all my journey through:
 strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
 bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
 land me safe on Canaan's side:
 songs and praises
 I will ever give to thee.

THE PREFACE

THE DECLARATIONS

THE COLLECT

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

Pour out your blessings upon Lily and Oliver,
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.

READING

Song of Solomon 8:6-7

Read by Carly Brown

Set me as a seal upon your heart,
As a seal upon your arm;
For love is as strong as death,
Jealousy as cruel as the grave;
Its flames are flames of fire,
A most vehement flame.

Many waters cannot quench love,
Nor can the floods drown it.
If a man would give for love
All the wealth of his house,
It would be utterly despised.

THE CHOIR SING PSALM 67

God be merciful unto us, and bless us;
and cause his face to shine upon us.

That thy way may be known upon earth,
thy saving health among all nations.

Let the people praise thee, O God;
let all the people praise thee.

O let the nations be glad and sing for joy:
for thou shalt judge the people righteously,
and govern the nations upon earth.

Let the people praise thee, O God;
let all the people praise thee.

Then shall the earth yield her increase;
and God, even our own God, shall bless us.

God shall bless us;
and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

READING

A reading from Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

Read by John Turner-Smith

"Out of my thoughts! You are part of my existence, part of myself. You have been in every line I have ever read, since I first came here, the rough common boy whose poor heart you wounded even then. You have been in every prospect I have ever seen since - on the river, on the sails of the ships, on the marshes, in the clouds, in the light, in the darkness, in the wind, in the woods, in the sea, in the streets.

You have been the embodiment of every graceful
fancy that my mind has ever become acquainted with.

The stones of which the strongest London buildings are made,
are not more real, or more impossible to be displaced by your hands,
than your presence and influence have been to me,
there and everywhere, and will be."

READING

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Read by Thomas Covington

Two are better than one,
Because they have a good reward for their labour.
For if they fall, one will lift up his companion.
But woe to him who is alone when he falls,
For he has no one to help him up.
Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm;
But how can one be warm alone?
Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him.
And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

THE ADDRESS

HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful (Adeste Fideles)

John Francis Wade (1711–1786)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!

Refrain:

O come, let us adore Him;

O come, let us adore Him;

O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

God of God, Light of Light,
lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten not created;

[Refrain]

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

[Refrain]

THE MARRIAGE OF LILY AND OLIVER

THE GIVING OF RINGS

THE BLESSING OF THE MARRIAGE

HYMN

I Vow to thee, My Country
Cecil Spring Rice (1711–1786)

I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above,
entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love:
the love that asks no question, the love that stands the test,
that lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;
the love that never falters, the love that pays the price,
the love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

And there's another country I've heard of long ago,
most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know;
we may not count her armies, we may not see her King;
her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;
and soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,
and her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are peace.

THE SIGNING OF THE REGISTER

During which the choir will sing:

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day
John Gardner (1917 - 2011)

The Holly and the Ivy (trad.)
Walford Davies (1869 - 1941)

THE PRAYERS

These responses may be used:

Lord of life and love

All: hear our prayer

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE BLESSING

THE RECESSIONAL MUSIC

The Queen of Sheba, from 'Solomon'
George Frideric Handel (1685 - 1759)