

AT THE ARRIVAL OF BEN & ANTONIA

Music: 'Canon in D', Johann Pachelbel (1653 -1706)

THE WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Fr David Simpson, Port Chaplain, Felixstowe & Haven Ports

At the arrival of Antonia and Ben, the congregation stands for the procession.

THE PREFACE

Antonia and Ben, you stand in the presence of God as man and wife to dedicate to him your life together, that he may consecrate your marriage and empower you to keep the covenant and promise you have solemnly declared.

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. This is the meaning of the marriage you have made.

You now wish to affirm your desire to live as followers of Christ, and you have come to him, the fountain of grace, that, strengthened by the prayers of the Church, you may be enabled to fulfil your marriage vows in love and faithfulness.

Let us keep silence and remember God's presence with us now.

God is love, and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them.

1 John 4.16

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY - ALL

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

HYMN - ALL

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, and 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.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise
Thou mine inheritance, now and always
Thou and Thou only first in my heart
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.

WORDS- ELEANOR HULL & MARY E BYRNE

MUSIC - SLANE

THE COLLECT - DAVID

God our Father,
you have taught us through our Son
that love is the fulfilling of the law.
Grant to your servants
that, loving one another,
they may continue in your love until their lives' end:
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

READING - DEBORAH SIMPSON

I'll Be There by Louise Cuddon

I'll be there, my darling,
Through thick and through thin
When your mind is a mess
When your head's in a spin
When your plane's been delayed
When you've missed the last train
When life is just threatening
To drive you insane
When your thrilling whodunit
Has lost its last page
When somebody tells you
You're looking your age
When your coffee's too cool
And your wine is too warm
When the forecast said 'Fine'
But you're out in a storm
When your quick-break hotel
Is more like a slum
And your holiday photos
Show only your thumb

When you park for five minutes
In a resident's bay
And return to discover
You've been towed away
When the jeans that you bought
In hope or in haste
Stick to your hips
And won't reach round your waist
When the dentist looks into
Your mouth and just sighs
When your heroes turn out
To be wimps in disguise
When the food you most like
Brings you out in red rashes
When as soon as you boot up
The wretched thing crashes
When you're in extra time
And the other team scores
When someone informs you
There's no Santa Claus
When you gaze at the stars
And step on a nail

When you know you'll succeed

But, somehow, you fail

When your horoscope tells you

You'll have a good day

So you ask for a rise

And your boss says 'No way'

So my darling, my sweetheart, my dear...

When you spill your beer

When you shed a tear

When you burn the toast

When you miss the post

When you lose the plot

When I'm all you've got

When you break a rule

When you act the fool

When you've got the flu

When you're in a stew

When you're last in the queue

Don't feel blue

'Cause I'm telling you

I'll be there

I'll be there

I'll be there for you

THE ADDRESS - DAVID

THE DEDICATION - DAVID

The husband and wife face the minister, who says

Antonia and Ben, you have committed yourselves to each other in marriage,

and your marriage is recognized by law.

The Church of Christ understands marriage to be,

in the will of God,

the union of a man and a woman,

for better, for worse,

for richer, for poorer,

in sickness and in health,

to love and to cherish,

till parted by death.

Is this your understanding of the covenant and promise that you have made?

BEN & ANTONIA

It is.

The minister says to the husband

DAVID

Ben, have you resolved to be faithful to your wife, forsaking all others,

so long as you both shall live?

BEN

That is my resolve, with the help of God.

The minister says to the wife

DAVID

Antonia, have you resolved to be faithful to your husband,

forsaking all others, so long as you both shall live?

ANTONIA

That is my resolve, with the help of God.

DAVID

Heavenly Father, by your blessing
let these rings be to Antonia and Ben
a symbol of unending love and faithfulness
and of the promises they have made to each other;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL

Amen.

DAVID

Antonia and Ben have here affirmed
their Christian understanding and resolve
in the marriage which they have begun.
Will you, their families and friends,
support and uphold them in their marriage,
now and in the years to come?

ALL

We will.

The congregation remains standing as the husband and wife kneel and say together

ANTONIA & BEN

Heavenly Father,
we offer you our souls and bodies,
our thoughts and words and deeds,
our love for one another.
Unite our wills in your will,
that we may grow together
in love and peace
all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

DAVID

Almighty God give you grace to persevere,
that he may complete in you
the work he has already begun,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL

Amen.

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heav'n, 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 ev'ry trembling heart.

Come, Almighty, to deliver,
let us all thy life receive.
Suddenly return, and never,
nevermore they 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;
true and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.