

THE DECLARATIONS

Reading: “Wild Awake” by Hilary T. Smith, read by Anna Marshall

People are like cities: We all have alleys, gardens, secret rooftops, and places where daisies sprout between the cracks in the pavement. Yet, most of the time, all we allow each other to see is a postcard glimpse of a skyline or a polished square. Love allows you to discover those hidden places within another person—those they didn’t even know were there, even those they wouldn’t have thought to call beautiful themselves.

Reading: “Mr & Mrs Dean”, written and read by Katherine Compton

For two and a half years, their story unfolds,
In friendship so deep, a love that moulds.

On New Year's Eve, in Bourton-on-Water's light,
They took a moment—everything felt right.
With a promise exchanged, a future in sight,
Their hearts intertwined, like day turns to night.

Helena, so lovely, with kindness that flows,
Great with children, where warmth truly glows.
With hair that shines bright and laughter that sings,
In her presence, you feel the joy that she brings.

And Rob, oh so caring, with a heart that's so vast,
Generous spirit, friendships destined to last.
With banter that sparkles and kindness he shares,
He fills every room with warmth and with cares.

So here's to the couple, so perfect and true,
May adventures continue in all that you do.
With love as your anchor, and laughter your song,
Rob and Helena, together you belong!

HYMN - Lord Of The Dance

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and 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 wouldn't 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...

They cut me down and I leapt up high;
I am the life that'll 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...

Bible Reading - 1 Corinthians 13:4-13, read by Stephen Jones

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends.

As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

THE ADDRESS

THE MARRIAGE

HYMN - One More Step Along The World

One more step along the world I go,
one more step along the world I go;
from the old things to the new
keep me travelling along with you.

*And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.*

Round the corners of the world I turn,
more and more about the world I learn;
all the new things that I see
you'll be looking at along with me.

And it's from the old I travel to the new...

As I travel through the bad and good,
keep me travelling the way I should;
where I see no way to go
you'll be telling me the way, I know.

And it's from the old I travel to the new...

Give me courage when the world is rough,
keep me loving though the world is tough;
leap and sing in all I do,
keep me travelling along with you

And it's from the old I travel to the new...

You are older than the world can be,
you are younger than the life in me;
ever old and ever new,
keep me travelling along with you.

And it's from the old I travel to the new...

PRAYERS

The Lord's Prayer (*all*)

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.