



JACK RITCHIE
AND
JENNIFER SHAW

WEDDING PRAYER

25TH MAY, 2024 AT 1.30 pm

at

KENSALYRE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Gracious God and loving Heavenly Father. We come before you
and we praise you, the Lord Almighty, the King of Creation.

You are the one who made heaven and earth,
you are the one from whom our help comes.

We rejoice in you. In all the changing seasons of our lives,
you remain steadfast and sure - the same - yesterday
and today and forever - working out your purposes for good.

We come to you in the name of Jesus Christ, by whom we can
call you our Father and come into your nearer presence.

Today our hearts are full and we want to thank you for being here with us
and for blessing us. Thank you for everyone gathered here. Thank you for
this day of celebration. Thank you for Jack and for Jennifer,
and for their marriage, which brings us together today.

Help us to recognise that it is not just this occasion but you, Lord, who has
brought us here. You know each of us. You know all that is on our minds
and hearts. You would have us be here - to celebrate, yes, but also in the
course of each of our lives to pause in this moment. Weddings aren't
everyday events. These are special moments, sacred moments, and we
would want to be conscious of that and be still before you, the living God.

Today, in our gathering, you have spoken to each of us. In your word. In the
marriage ceremony. In the hymns we have sung. Lord, give each of us ears
to hear, eyes to see, and hearts and minds that are open to you and your
love for us - to your desire that each of us would respond to your call and
accept you as our personal Lord and Saviour. That we would know that life
of purpose & peace, of power and pleasure that is only found in you.

Life is made up of meetings and partings. That is the way of it. In these
past years you caused Jack and Jennifer to meet, and today we celebrate
how you have brought them together. And because of what you have done
in their lives we are meeting here. We thank you that you are here with us.

Our greatest need is to meet and know you. We thank you that Jack and
Jennifer both know you as their personal Saviour and Lord.

Today, before us, you have made something new. Jack & Jennifer, our son and Andrew & Kirsty's daughter, have left us - their fathers and mothers - and been united with each other as husband and wife. And we rejoice in that, in this new family - a cord of three strands, with your Son binding them to each other and to you. We know how important that is. This is the beginning of their married life together and none of us knows what lies ahead, what joys and sorrows, what hard times and good, where they will go, what you will call them to.

We thank you that they do not wander as those who are lost. We thank you that you are with them, their Shepherd King to lead and to guide.

Lord, bind them to yourself and watch over their going out and coming in. That they may ever look to you and live lives displaying compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness and patience.

Above all help them to love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. Love for each other, for their family and friends, love for those who need to know the love of Christ.

As Jack & Jennifer set out on their married life together we thank you that you are with them. Help them to remain - to abide - in you. To study your word. To pray and to worship together in a fellowship of your people.

Bless their home, their family and help them to serve and be a blessing to others. May they be faithful and obedient and - through you - bear fruit in your service and for your glory.

Lord, today, we ask for your blessing on the new Mr & Mrs Ritchie - help them to walk by faith, and not by sight.

And may all your creative, sustaining, life giving, life saving, life changing power and force be with them - Christ in them - that whatever they do, in word or deed, they may do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. Help them to live justly, love mercy and walk humbly with you, their God, all the days of their lives.

We ask all this, along with the unspoken prayers of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ, who alone is our hope in life and death. Amen

