

*The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage*

*Catherine Belle Meador*

*and*

*Walker Blackwell Plash*



*20 May, 2017*

*5:00 p.m.*

*Christ Church Cathedral*

*900 Broadway*

*Nashville, Tennessee*



*The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage*  
*Catherine Belle Meador*  
*and*  
*Walker Blackwell Plash*

**MUSIC BEFORE THE LITURGY**

Air and Gavotte	Johann Sebastian Bach
Brandenburg Concerto 3	Johann Sebastian Bach
Minuetto	Luigi Boccherin
Oboe Quartet in F, Third Movement	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Cantata 208 - Sheep May Safely Graze	Johann Sebastian Bach
Gabriel's Oboe	Ennio Morricone
Spring	Antonio Vivaldi
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring	Johann Sebastian Bach

**THE ENTRANCE OF THE BRIDAL PARTY**

Trumpet Voluntary	John Stanley
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**THE ENTRANCE OF THE BRIDE**

Canon in D	Johann Pachelbel
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**THE OPENING ADDRESS**

*The Celebrant addresses the congregation and says*

Dearly beloved: We have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of this man and this woman in Holy Matrimony. The bond and covenant of marriage was established by God in creation, and our Lord Jesus Christ adorned this manner of life by his presence and first miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. It signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church, and Holy Scripture commends it to be honored among all people.

The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and, when it is God's will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord.

Therefore marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God.

Into this holy union Catherine Belle Meador and Walker Blackwell Plash now come to be joined. If any of you can show just cause why they may not lawfully be married, speak now; or else for ever hold your peace.

*Then the Celebrant says to the persons to be married*

I require and charge you both, here in the presence of God, that if either of you know any reason why you may not be united in marriage lawfully, and in accordance with God's Word, you do now confess it.

## THE DECLARATION OF CONSENT

*The Celebrant say to the Woman*

Catherine, will you have this man to be your husband; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

*The Woman answers*

I will.

*The Celebrant says to the Man*

Walker, will you have this woman to be your wife; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

*The Man answers*

I will.

*The Celebrant then addresses the congregation, saying*

Will all of you witnessing these promises do all in your power to uphold these two persons in their Marriage?

*People*        We will.

Hymn 488 - Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart

*Slane*

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

### The Presentation of the Bride and Groom

*Celebrant*    The Lord be with you.

*People*        And also with you.

*Celebrant*    Let us pray.

### The Collect of the Day

O gracious and everliving God, you have created us male and female in your image: Look mercifully upon this man and this woman who come to you seeking your blessing, and assist them with your grace, that with true fidelity and steadfast love they may honor and keep the promises and vows they make; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A reading from the Song of Solomon:

Song of Solomon 2:10-13

My beloved speaks and says to me: 'Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtle-dove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

A reading from the First letter of Paul to the Colossians: Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God

Psalm 121

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; \*  
from where is my help to come?
- 2 My help comes from the LORD, \*  
the maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved \*  
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel \*  
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
- 5 The LORD himself watches over you; \*  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand,
- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, \*  
nor the moon by night.
- 7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; \*  
it is he who shall keep you safe.
- 8 The LORD shall watch over your going out and  
your coming in, \*  
from this time forth for evermore.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew Matthew 7:21, 24-29

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!” Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

*Celebrate* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God

Homily – The Very Reverend Timothy E. Kimbrough

## THE MARRIAGE

*The Man, facing the woman and taking her right hand in his, says*

In the Name of God, I, Walker, take you, Catherine, to be my wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

*Then they loose their hands, and the Woman, still facing the man, takes his right hand in hers, and says*

In the Name of God, I, Catherine, take you, Walker, to be my husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

*The Priest asks God's blessing on the rings, saying*

Bless, O Lord, these rings to be signs of the vows by which this man and this woman have bound themselves to each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The giver places the ring on the ring-finger of the other's hand and says*

Catherine/Walker, I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Then the Celebrant joins the right hands of husband and wife and says*

Now that Catherine and Walker have given themselves to each other by solemn vows, with the joining of hands and the giving and receiving of rings, I pronounce that they are husband and wife, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

*People* Amen

## The Prayers

Eternal God, creator and preserver of all life, author of salvation, and giver of all grace: Look with favor upon the world you have made, and for which your Son gave his life, and especially upon this man and this woman whom you make one flesh in Holy Matrimony. **Amen.**

Give them wisdom and devotion in the ordering of their common life, that each may be to the other a strength in need, a counselor in perplexity, a comfort in sorrow, and a companion in joy. **Amen.**

Grant that their wills may be so knit together in your will, and their spirits in your Spirit, that they may grow in love and peace with you and one another all the days of their life. **Amen.**

Give them grace, when they hurt each other, to recognize and acknowledge their fault, and to seek each other's forgiveness and yours. **Amen.**

Make their life together a sign of Christ's love to this sinful and broken world, that unity may overcome estrangement, forgiveness heal guilt, and joy conquer despair. **Amen.**

Bestow on them, if it is your will, the gift and heritage of children, and the grace to bring them up to know you, to love you, and to serve you. **Amen.**

Give them such fulfillment of their mutual affection that they may reach out in love and concern for others. **Amen.**

Grant that all married persons who have witnessed these vows may find their lives strengthened and their loyalties confirmed. **Amen.**

Grant that the bonds of our common humanity, by which all your children are united one to another, and the living to the dead, may be so transformed by your grace, that your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven; where, O Father, with your Son and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign in perfect unity, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Peace

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

*The newly married couple then greet each other, after which greetings may be exchanged throughout the congregation.*

Hymn 460 - Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!

*Hyfrydol*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### The Great Thanksgiving

*The people remain standing.*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Celebrant and People*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

*All standing, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray together in the words our Savior taught us.

*People and Celebrant*

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,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.



**The Breaking of the Bread**

BCP, p. 364

**Music at the Communion**

Ave Maria  
Before the Throne of God Above

**Postcommunion Prayer**

BCP, p. 432

### THE BLESSING OF THE MARRIAGE

*The people remain standing. The husband and wife kneel, and the Priest says the following prayer*

Most gracious God, we give you thanks for your tender love in sending Jesus Christ to come among us, to be born of a human mother, and to make the way of the cross to be the way of life. We thank you, also, for consecrating the union of man and woman in his Name. By the power of your Holy Spirit, pour out the abundance of your blessing upon this man and this woman. Defend them from every enemy. Lead them into all peace. Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts, a mantle about their shoulders, and a crown upon their foreheads. Bless them in their work and in their companionship; in their sleeping and in their waking; in their joys and in their sorrows; in their life and in their death. Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that table where your saints feast for ever in your heavenly home; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*The husband and wife still kneeling, the Priest adds this blessing*

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with his favor look upon you, and fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace; that you may faithfully live together in this life, and in the age to come have life everlasting. *Amen.*

Dismissal

BCP, p. 366

**Recessional Music**

A mighty fortress is our God

*Ein feste Burg*



CLERGY

The Very Reverend Timothy E. Kimbrough

MUSICIANS

Michael Gebhart

*Assistant Organist and Choirmaster*

Craig Duncan

*Violin*

Bruce Sweetman

*Violin*

Tammy Hobbs

*Viola*

Paul Nelson

*Cello*

Laura Ann Ross

*Oboe*

Joe Gross

*Trumpet*

Julie Cox,

*Vocalist*

MAID OF HONOR

Hannah Elizabeth Meador

BRIDESMAIDS

Kelly Jane DeWyer

Lundy Plash Foose

Kathleen Marie Fuchs

Heather Kileff Hutchins

Madeline Gordon Meador

Madison Plash Petersen

Sarah Elizabeth Scott

Shannon Leigh Skinner

Meredith McKenney Stocks

BEST MAN

Samuel James Gordon Plash

GROOMSMEN

Timothy James Campbell

Robert Wann Jones

Elliott Jiwoo Kim

Abraham Scott McCall

John William Townsend Meador

Brian Thomas Palmisano

Philip Prince Parker, Jr.

Blair Taylor Stocks

Kenneth Robert Thompson III

FLOWER GIRLS

Tatum Louise Foose

Mabry Carolyn Foose

READERS

Bracy Stewart Mayo

Carolyn Riley Von Lunen

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Keith Glenn Meador

A. Wesley Burks

Hannah Elizabeth Meador

USHERS

Curran Donelson Foose

Brice Tanner Petersen

