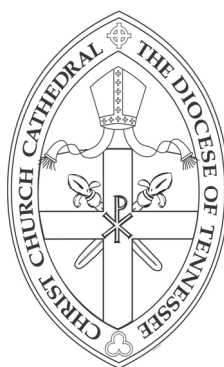


The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage

Rachel Morgan Wexler

and

Russell Davis Laughlin



14 October 2017

5:00 p.m.

Christ Church Cathedral

900 Broadway

Nashville, Tennessee

The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage
Rachel Morgan Wexler
and
Russell Davis Laughlin

MUSIC BEFORE THE LITURGY

Trumpet Voluntary	John Stanley
Jesu, joy of man's desiring	Johann Sebastian Bach
Prelude <i>from</i> Te Deum	Mar-Antoine Charpentier
If thou but trust in God to guide thee	Johann Sebastian Bach
Rondeau	Jean-Joseph Mouret
Concerto in D (after Vivaldi)	Johann Sebastian Bach
- Largo e spiccato	
<i>Suite du Premier Ton</i>	Louis-Nicolas Clérambault
- <i>Duo</i>	
- <i>Trio</i>	
- <i>Dialogue sur les Grands Jeux</i>	
Aria	George Frideric Handel

THE PROCESSION

All stand.

Trumpet Tune and March	Jeremiah Clark
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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 Rachel Morgan Wexler and Russell Davis Laughlin 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

Morgan, 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

Russell, 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.

The Presentation of the Bride and Groom

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

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.**

Please be seated.

So she got up, and they began to pray and implore that they might be kept safe. Tobias began by saying,
'Blessed are you, O God of our ancestors,
and blessed is your name in all generations for ever.
Let the heavens and the whole creation bless you for ever.
You made Adam, and for him you made his wife Eve
as a helper and support.
From the two of them the human race has sprung.
You said, "It is not good that the man should be alone;
let us make a helper for him like himself."
I now am taking this kinswoman of mine,
not because of lust,
but with sincerity.
Grant that she and I may find mercy
and that we may grow old together.'
And they both said, 'Amen, Amen.'

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 128 *Read in unison*

- 1 Happy are they all who fear the Lord, *
and who follow in his ways!
- 2 You shall eat the fruit of your labor; *
happiness and prosperity shall be yours.
- 3 Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine within your house, *
your children like olive shoots round about your table.
- 4 The man who fears the LORD *
Shall thus indeed be blessed.
- 5 The LORD bless you from Zion, *
and may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days
of your life.
- 6 May you live to see your children's children; *
may peace be upon Israel.

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

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

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God

All stand.

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God

Please be seated.

HOMILY – The Reverend Christopher N. Jambor

THE MARRIAGE

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

In the Name of God, I, Russell, take you, Morgan, 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, Morgan, take you, Russell, 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

Morgan/Russell, 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 Morgan and Russell 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. **Amen.**

All stand.

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 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.*

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.

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.

Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Morgan and Russell and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *Amen.*

All standing, the Celebrant says

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

*All are invited to the Lord's Altar.
Please follow the direction of the ushers in order to receive Communion.*

Music at the Communion

Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness

Johannes Brahms

Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

O God, the giver of all that is true and lovely and gracious: We give you thanks for binding us together in these holy mysteries of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that by your Holy Spirit, Morgan and Russell, now joined in Holy Matrimony, may become one in heart and soul, live in fidelity and peace, and obtain those eternal joys prepared for all who love you; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Dismissal

RECESSIONAL MUSIC

Water Music Suite
- Allegro Maestoso (Hornpipe)

George Frideric Handel

CELEBRANT

The Reverend Matthew W. Lewis
Assistant to the Rector, Christ Church Cathedral

OFFICIANT

The Reverend Christopher N. Jambor
Rector, All Saints' Episcopal Church, Fort Worth, Texas

MUSICIAN

Canon Dr. Michael Velting
Cathedral Organist and Choirmaster

MAIDS OF HONOR

Carter Nichols Bryant
Alexandra Terren Conner

BEST MEN

Marshall Boswell Mays
Mark Edward Crites, Junior

BRIDESMAIDS

Sara Elizabeth Anderson
Lacy Perry Del Favero
Hannah Kathleen Howe
Kathryn Yates Laughlin
Mariel Snetman Linton
Teighlor Lambert Mays
Caitlin Del Casino Roche
Amy McCalmont Smelko

JUNIOR BRIDESMAIDS/GREETERS

Macy Nicole Batson
Caroline Reese Batson

FLOWER GIRL

Riley Grace Turner

GROOMSMEN

Logan Murphy Benoist
James Thomas Burk
David Brinson Camp
Hunter Prescott Harvison
Jesse James Howe
Francisco Javier Olmedo
Robert Webb Reagan
Zachery Martin Wexler

USHERS

Diego Alejandro Añez
Bradley Raymond Mikec
Preston Holmes Stewart

READER

Frank Cope Batson III

CHALICE BEARERS

John Robert Burk, M.D.
Peter Lindsay Philpott

