

## **The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage**

**Marisa Sophiea**

*and*

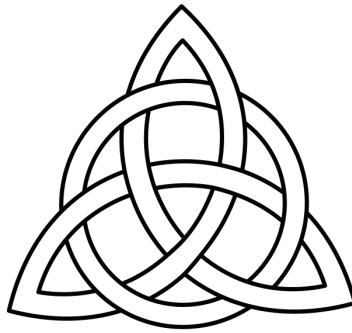
**Alexander Blee**

Sunday, May 25, 2025

at four o'clock in the afternoon

Christ Church Detroit  
960 East Jefferson Avenue  
Detroit, Michigan 48207





## THE CELEBRATION AND BLESSING OF A MARRIAGE

### PRELUDE

### PROCESSIONAL

Canon in D

Johann Pachelbel

### OPENING GREETING

*The Celebrant, facing the people and the persons to be married, with the woman to the right and the man to the left, addresses the congregation and says*

Dearly beloved: We have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of Marisa Sophiea and Alexander Blee in Holy Matrimony.

The joining of two people in a life of mutual fidelity signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church, and so it is worthy of being honored among all people.

The union of two people 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 gift 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 Alexander and Marisa 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.

## **DECLARATION OF CONSENT**

*The Celebrant says to one member of the couple, then to the other*

*Celebrant* Marisa, 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?

*answer* I will.

*Celebrant* Alexander, 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?

*answer* 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 MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O gracious and everliving God, you have created humankind in your image: Look mercifully upon Alexander and Marisa 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.**

*The People are seated.*

*Having a Coke with You*

is even more fun than going to San Sebastien, Irun, Hendaye, Biarritz, Bayonne  
 or being sick to my stomach on the Travesera de Gracia in Barcelona  
 partly because in your orange shirt you look like a better happier St. Sebastian  
 partly because of my love for you, partly because of your love for yoghurt  
 partly because of the fluorescent orange tulips around the birches  
 partly because of the secrecy our smiles take on before people and statuary  
 it is hard to believe when I’m with you that there can be anything as still  
 as solemn as unpleasantly definitive as statuary when right in front of it  
 in the warm New York 4 o’clock light we are drifting back and forth  
 between each other like a tree breathing through its spectacles  
 and the portrait show seems to have no faces in it at all, just paint  
 you suddenly wonder why in the world anyone ever did them

I look

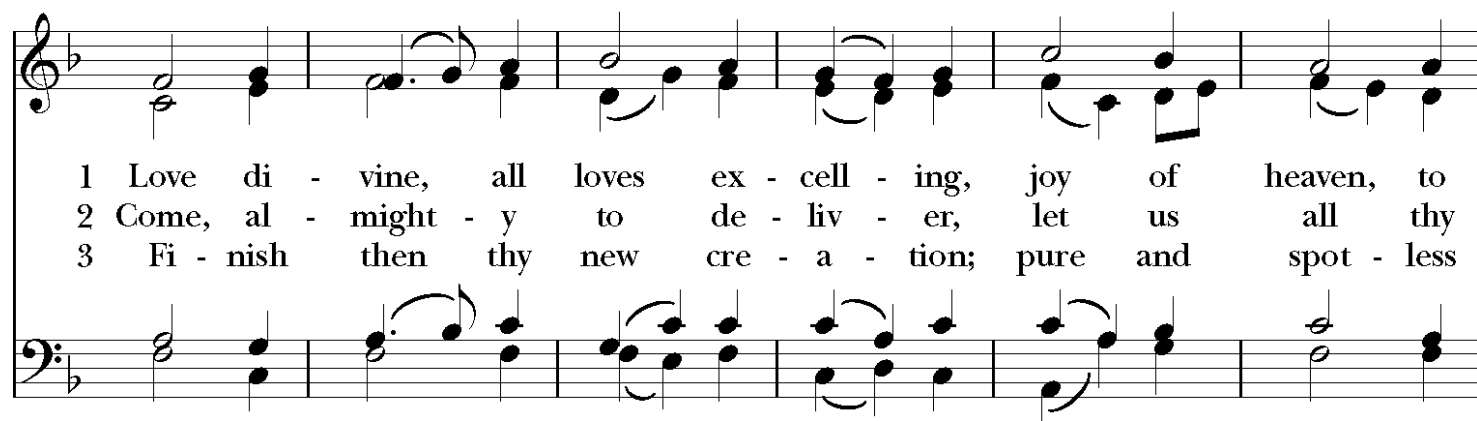
at you and I would rather look at you than all the portraits in the world  
 except possibly for the *Polish Rider* occasionally and anyway it’s in the Frick  
 which thank heavens you haven’t gone to yet so we can go together for the first time  
 and the fact that you move so beautifully more or less takes care of Futurism  
 just as at home I never think of the *Nude Descending a Staircase* or  
 at a rehearsal a single drawing of Leonardo or Michelangelo that used to wow me  
 and what good does all the research of the Impressionists do them  
 when they never got the right person to stand near the tree when the sun sank  
 or for that matter Marino Marini when he didn’t pick the rider as carefully  
 as the horse

it seems they were all cheated of some marvelous experience  
 which is not going to go wasted on me which is why I’m telling you about it

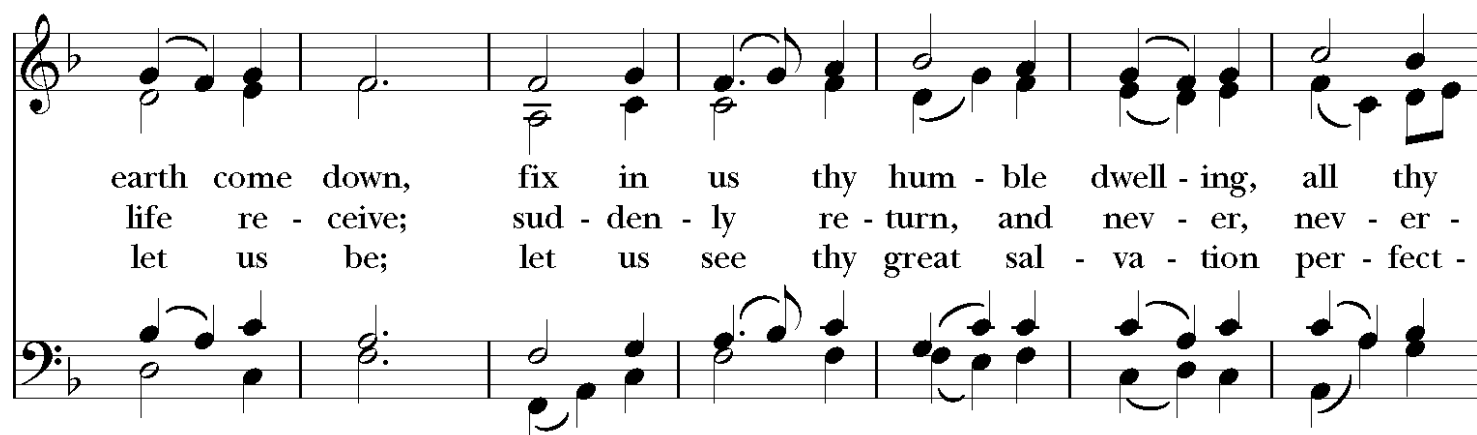
*All stand as able and sing.*

## HYMN

Love divine, all loves excelling



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to  
2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy  
3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less



earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,  
ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Music: *Hyfrydol*, Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811-1887)

*The People are seated.*

## SCRIPTURES

Song of Solomon 2:10-13; 8:6-7

*read by Alexa Harkema*

*Reader* A reading from Song of Solomon.

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 turtledove 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.

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm;  
for love is as strong as death, passion fierce as the grave.

Its flashes are flashes of fire,  
a raging flame.

Many waters cannot quench love,  
neither can floods drown it.

If one offered for love all the wealth of one’s house,  
it would be utterly scorned.”

The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

Colossians 3:12-17

*read by Aurelia Blee*

*Reader* A reading from Colossians.

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 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 heart 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.

The Word of the Lord.

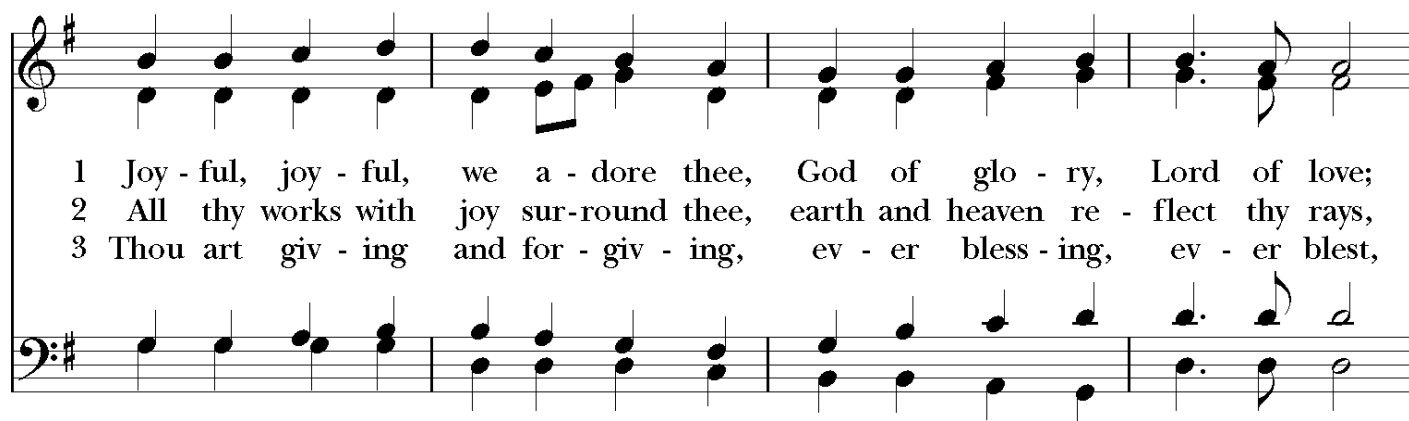
*People* **Thanks be to God.**



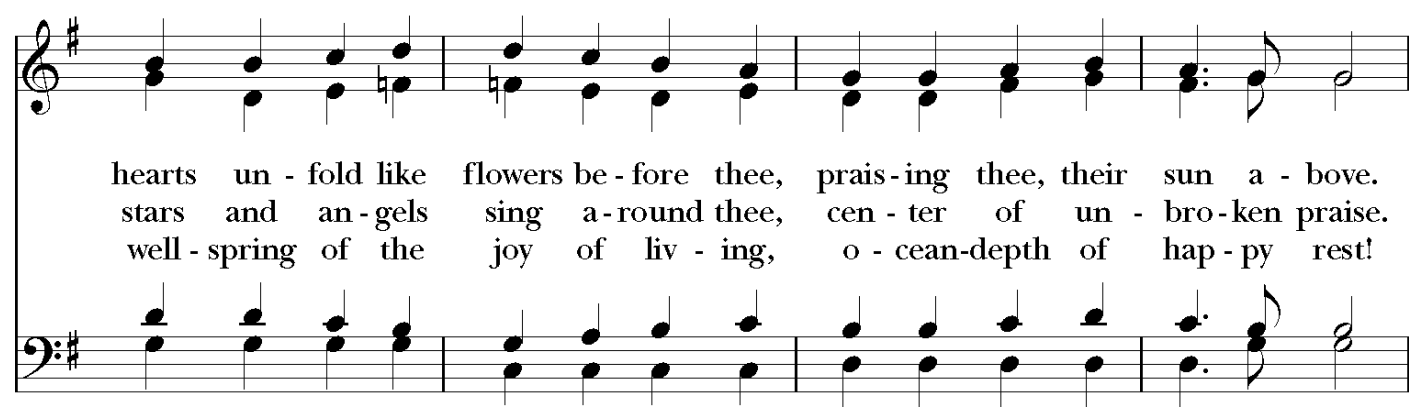
*All stand as able and sing.*

## HYMN

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee



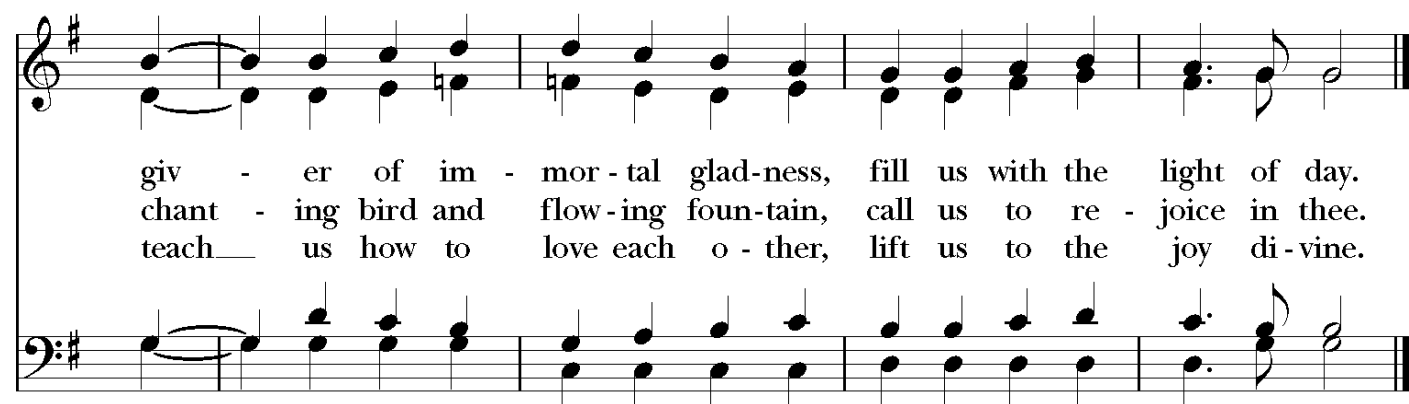
1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;  
2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,  
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, prais-ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a-round thee, cen - ter of un - bro-ken praise.  
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; drive the dark of doubt a - way;  
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, bloom-ing mea-dow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our Bro - ther: all who live in love are thine;



giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.  
chant - ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, call us to re - joice in thee.  
teach us how to love each o - ther, lift us to the joy di - vine.

Words: Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933) Copyright © reprinted with the permission of Charles Scribner's Sons. All rights reserved. Used with permission.  
Music: *Hymn to Joy*, Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827); adapt. Edward Hodges (1796-1867), alt.

*The People are seated.*

## **HOMILY**

### **THE MARRIAGE**

*The couple comes before the assembly. The Celebrant then addresses the couple, saying*

*Celebrant* Alexander and Marisa, you have come before God and the Church to make public your marriage to one another and to ask God's blessing.

## **VOWS**

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

In the Name of God, I, Alexander, take you, Marisa, 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, Marisa, take you, Alexander, 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.

*They loose their hands.*

## **EXCHANGE OF RINGS**

*Celebrant* †Bless, O Lord, these rings to be a sign of the vows by which Alexander and Marisa 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*

N., 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.

## **PRONOUNCEMENT**

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

*Celebrant* Now that Marisa and Alexander have given themselves to each other by solemn vows, with the joining of hands and the giving and receiving of a ring, I pronounce that they are wed to one another, 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.**

*All stand as able and sing.*

## HYMN

## Lord of the Dance



1. I danced in the morn - ing when the world was be-gun, And I
2. I danced for the scribe and the phar - i - see, But
3. I danced on the Sab - bath and I cured the lame: The
4. I danced on a Fri - day when the sky turned black; It's
5. They cut me down and I leapt up high; †



danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, And I  
they would not dance, and they would-n't fol - low me; I  
ho - ly peo - ple said it was a shame. They  
hard to dance with the dev - il on your back. They  
I am the life that - 'll nev - er, nev - er die; I'll



came down from heav - en and I danced on the earth; At  
danced for the fish - er - men, for James and John; They  
whipped and they stripped and they hung me high, And  
bur - ied my bod - y and they thought I'd gone; But  
live in you if you'll live in me: †



Beth - le - hem I had my birth.  
came with me and the dance went on.  
left me there on a Cross to die.  
I am the dance and I still go on.  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.



Dance then wher - ev - er you may be; I am the



Lord of the Dance, said he, And I'll lead you all, wher -



ev - er you may be, And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

Text: Sydney Carter, b.1915, © 1963, Stainer & Bell, Ltd., London, England. (admin. by Hope Publishing Co.)

Tune: LORD OF THE DANCE, Irregular; adapted from a traditional Shaker melody by Sydney Carter, b.1915, © 1963, Stainer & Bell, Ltd., London, England. (admin. by Hope Publishing Co.)

## LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

**Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*led by Joanna Hailey*

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*Leader* 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 Alexander and Marisa whom you make one flesh in Holy Matrimony.

*All* **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.**

*The Celebrant continues, saying*

O God, 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.**

## BLESSING OF THE MARRIAGE

*The people remain standing. The husband and wife kneel or bow their heads, as the Priest says*

*Celebrant* 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 Marisa and Alexander.  
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.

*All* **Amen.**

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.

*All* **Amen.**

*After receiving their blessing, the couple faces the gathered community.*

## INTRODUCTION OF THE COUPLE

*Celebrant* Family and friends, please join me in welcoming the couple joined here  
in marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Blee.

## RECESSIONAL

Hornpipe

George Friedrich Handel

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<i>Parents of the Bride</i>	Paul and Elena Sophia
<i>Parents of the Groom</i>	Anthony and Dawn Blee
<i>Bridal Party</i>	Rachael Beverley and Jacquelyn Sophia
<i>Groom's Party</i>	Ollie Stewart and Ruaridh McKay
<i>Readers</i>	Carly Vincenz, Alexa Harkema, Aurelia Blee
<i>Intercessor</i>	Joanna Hailey
<i>Greeters</i>	Salvatore D'Arrigo, Alastair Dyer, Stephen Bleakley
<i>Musicians</i>	Dr. Edward Maki-Schramm, <i>Director of Music</i> Lily Belle Czartorski, <i>soprano</i> ; Alice Bell, <i>mezzo soprano</i> X. Alexander Durden, <i>tenor</i> ; Patrick Peavy, <i>bass</i>
<i>Sacristans</i>	Liza Parkinson, <i>Wedding Coordinator</i> Joshilyn Hoisington, <i>Parish Administrator</i>
<i>Celebrant</i>	The Rev. Emily Williams Guffey, <i>Rector</i>



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