

# Order of service

*for the marriage of*

*Florence Rose Emond*

*&*

*James Alexander Lumsden*

*Tuesday 17th August 2021,*

*St Mary's Church, Iffley, Oxford*



A wedding is one of life's great moments, a time of solemn commitment as well as good wishes, feasting and joy. St John tells us how Jesus shared in such an occasion at Cana, and gave there a sign of new beginnings as he turned water into wine.

Marriage is intended by God to be a creative relationship, as his blessing enables husband and wife to love and support each other in good times and in bad, and to share in the care and upbringing of children. For Christians, marriage is also an invitation to share life together in the spirit of Jesus Christ. It is based upon a solemn, public and life-long covenant between a man and a woman, declared and celebrated in the presence of God and before witnesses.

On this their wedding day the bride and bridegroom face each other, make their promises and receive God's blessing. You are witnesses of the marriage, and express your support by your presence and your prayers. Your support does not end today: the couple will value continued encouragement in the days and years ahead of them.

*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.*

*1 Corinthians 13.4-7*

# Introductory music

A selection of pieces by Faure, Dubois, Elgar, and JS Bach

Entrance of the bride: Ave Maria, JS Bach & Gounod

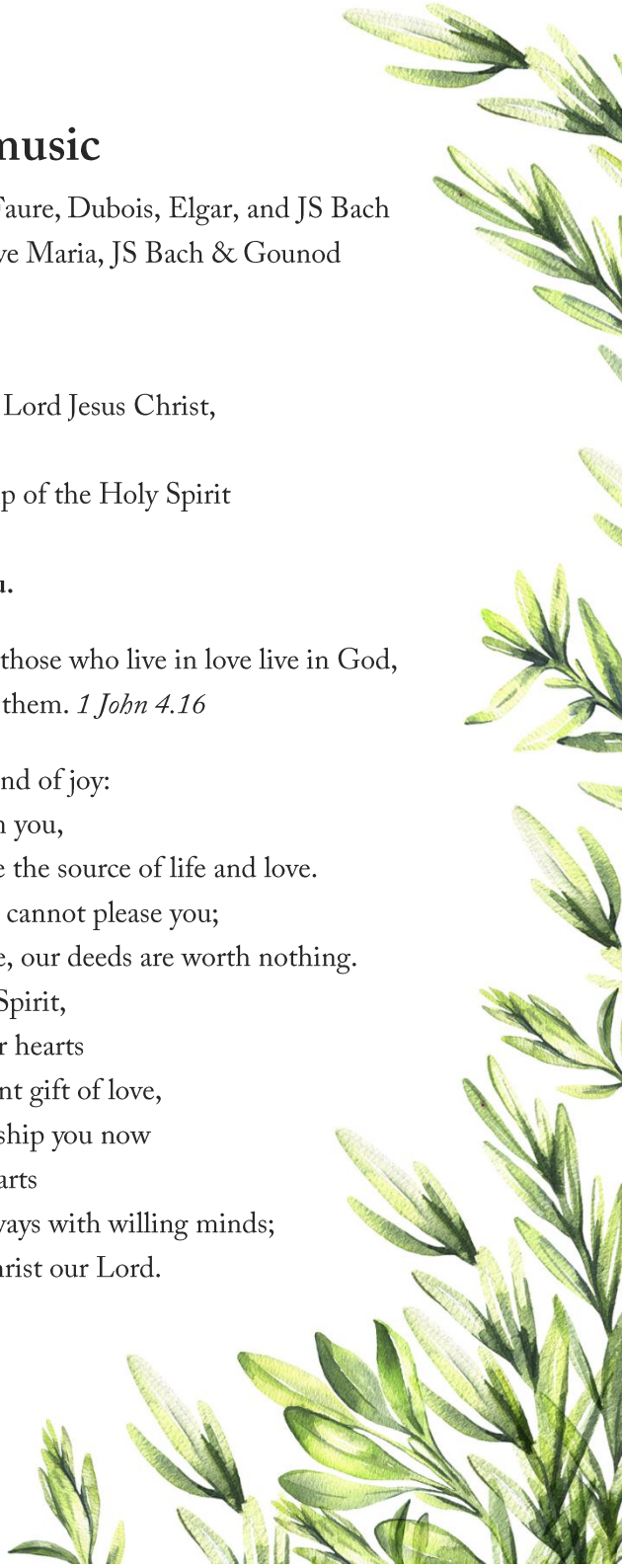
## The Welcome

*Priest* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with you

*All* **and also with you.**

*Priest* God is love, and those who live in love live in God,  
and God lives in them. *1 John 4.16*

*All* God of wonder and of joy:  
grace comes from you,  
and you alone are the source of life and love.  
Without you, we cannot please you;  
without your love, our deeds are worth nothing.  
Send your Holy Spirit,  
and pour into our hearts  
that most excellent gift of love,  
that we may worship you now  
with thankful hearts  
and serve you always with willing minds;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



# The First Hymn

*Here is love, vast as the ocean, William Rees (1802-1883)*

Here is love, vast as the ocean,  
loving-kindness as the flood,  
when the Prince of Life, our Ransom,  
shed for us His precious blood.  
Who His love will not remember?  
Who can cease to sing His praise?  
He can never be forgotten  
throughout heav'n's eternal days.

On the mount of crucifixion  
fountains opened deep and wide;  
through the floodgates of God's mercy  
flowed a vast and gracious tide.  
Grace and love, like mighty rivers,  
poured incessant from above,  
and heav'n's peace and perfect justice  
kissed a guilty world in love.

Let me all Thy love accepting,  
love Thee, ever all my days;  
let me seek Thy kingdom only  
and my life be to Thy praise;  
Thou alone shalt be my glory,  
Nothing in the world I see.  
Thou hast cleansed and sanctified me,  
Thou Thyself hast set me free.

# Preface & Declarations

*The priest reads an introductory passage, followed by the final declaration of marriage.*

## The Collect

*Priest* God our Father,  
from the beginning  
you have blessed creation with abundant life.  
Pour out your blessings upon Florence and Jim,  
that they may be joined in mutual love and companionship,  
in holiness and commitment to each other.  
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

All **Amen.**



# The Second Hymn

*When I survey the wondrous cross, (Isaac Watts, 1674-1748)*

When I survey the wondrous cross  
on which the Prince of glory died,  
my richest gain I count but loss,  
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast  
save in the cross of Christ my God;  
all the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See from his head, his hands, his feet,  
sorrow and love flow mingled down;  
did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
or thorns compose so rich a crown!

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were a present far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.

# The First Reading

*Sonnet 116 by William Shakespeare, read by Eric Lumsden*

Let me not to the marriage of true minds  
Admit impediments. Love is not love  
Which alters when it alteration finds,  
Or bends with the remover to remove.  
O no! it is an ever-fixed mark  
That looks on tempests and is never shaken;  
It is the star to every wand'ring bark,  
Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.  
Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks  
Within his bending sickle's compass come;  
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,  
But bears it out even to the edge of doom.  
If this be error and upon me prov'd,  
I never writ, nor no man ever lov'd.

*Word of the day: a bark is a type of sailing ship*

# The Second Reading

*1 John 4:7-21, read by Andrew Merchant*

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: he sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: in this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.



# The Sermon

By Rev Nikolaj Christensen

## The Third Reading

*Ruth 1:16-17, read by Jill Readings*

But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.”



# The Marriage

*The couple make their vows and exchange rings*

## The Proclamation

*Priest* In the presence of God, and before this congregation,  
Florence and Jim have given their consent  
and made their marriage vows to each other.  
They have declared their marriage by the joining of hands  
and by the giving and receiving of rings.  
I therefore proclaim that they are husband and wife!

Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

# The Blessing of the Marriage

*Priest* Blessed are you, O Lord our God,  
for you have created joy and gladness,  
pleasure and delight, love, peace and fellowship.  
Pour out the abundance of your blessing  
upon Florence and Jim in their new life together.  
Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts  
and a crown upon their heads.  
Bless them in their work and in their companionship;  
awake and asleep,  
in joy and in sorrow,  
in life and in death.  
Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that banquet  
where your saints feast forever in your heavenly home.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

*All*     **Amen.**

*Priest* God the Father,  
God the Son,  
God the Holy Spirit,  
bless, preserve and keep you;  
the Lord mercifully grant you the riches of his grace,  
that you may please him both in body and soul,  
and, living together in faith and love,  
may receive the blessings of eternal life.

*All*     **Amen.**

# Registration of the Marriage

The witnesses are Suzanne Emond and Rachel Lumsden

*This Marriage, Eric Whitacre*

*Sung by The Bayley Choir*

May these vows and this marriage be blessed.

May it be sweet milk,

this marriage, like wine and halvah.

May this marriage offer fruit and shade

like the date palm.

May this marriage be full of laughter,

our every day a day in paradise.

May this marriage be a sign of compassion,

a seal of happiness here and hereafter.

May this marriage have a fair face and a good name,

an omen as welcomes the moon in a clear blue sky.

I am out of words to describe

how spirit mingles in this marriage.



# The Third Hymn

*Make me a channel of your peace, Prayer of St Francis*

Make me a channel of your peace  
Where there is hatred let me bring your love  
Where there is injury your pardon Lord  
And where there's doubt true faith in you

Make me a channel of your peace  
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope  
Where there is darkness, only light  
And where there's sadness ever joy

Oh master grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console  
To be understood as to understand  
To be loved as to love with all my soul

Make me a channel of your peace  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned  
In giving to all men that we receive  
And in dying that we're born to eternal life

Oh master grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console  
To be understood as to understand  
To be loved as to love with all my soul

Make me a channel of your peace  
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope  
Where there is darkness, only light  
And where there's sadness ever joy

# Prayers

*Prayers by Mary-Rose & Gerard Gibson*

*The prayers conclude with the Lord's Prayer.*

*All* Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever.  
Amen.



# The Final Hymn

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart, Mary E. Byrne (1880 - 1931)*

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;  
I ever with thee, and thou with me, Lord.  
Born of thy love, thy child may I be,  
thou in me dwelling and I one with thee.

Be thou my buckler, my sword for the fight.  
Be thou my dignity, thou my delight,  
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tow'r.  
Raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise;  
thou mine inheritance, now and always.  
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
Ruler of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, when vict'ry is won  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!  
Heart of my heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

# The Dismissal

*Priest* God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love,  
defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

*All* Amen.

# Processional

Charles-Marie Widor's Toccata from Symphony for Organ Number 5

# Many thanks to

Nikolaj Christensen,  
Janet Low,  
The Choir  
Eric Lumsden, Rachel Lumsden  
Richard Emond, Suzanne Emond,  
Jill Readings  
Andrew Merchant  
Mary Rose & Gerard Gibson  
Andrew & Sarah McKearney  
The bellringers,  
and the Iffley Church flower fairies

Without whom this service would have been impossible

