

The Wedding of

BARBARA ELIZABETH WRIGHT

and

ALEXANDER JAMES BALL

Feast of SS. Gwynllyw and Gwladys

Monday, 29 March 2004

2pm

St. Mary's Church, East Brent

The Gathering

The bride enters to: Trumpet Voluntary — Jeremiah Clarke

The Welcome

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.**

Hymn

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing every blessing,
if our God our Father be.

Words:
J Edmeston

Tune:
Mannheim
(F Filitz adapt.)

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us:
all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
lone and dreary, faint and weary,
through the desert thou didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy;
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.

Prayers of Penitence

As we prepare to hear God's word
and to celebrate the marriage of Alex and Barbara,
we remember our human frailty
and our need for God's help in all that we do.

Lord, in our weakness you are our strength.

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord, when we stumble, you raise us up.

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, when we fail, you give us new life.

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

May God in his goodness forgive us our sins,
grant us strength in our weakness,
and bring us to eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Preface

In the presence of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
we have come together
to witness the marriage of Alex and Barbara,
to pray for God's blessing on them,
to share their joy
and to celebrate their love.

Marriage is a gift of God in creation
through which husband and wife may know the grace of God.
It is given that as man and woman grow together in love and trust,
they shall be united with one another in heart, body and mind,
as Christ is united with his bride, the Church.

The gift of marriage brings husband and wife together
in the delight and tenderness of sexual union
and joyful commitment to the end of their lives.
It is given as the foundation of family life
in which children are born and nurtured
and in which each member of the family,
in good times and in bad,
may find strength, companionship and comfort,
and grow to maturity in love.

Marriage is a way of life made holy by God,
and blessed by the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ
with those celebrating a wedding at Cana in Galilee.
Marriage is a sign of unity and loyalty
which all should uphold and honour.
It enriches society and strengthens community.
No one should enter into it lightly or selfishly
but reverently and responsibly in the sight of almighty God.

Alex and Barbara are now to enter this way of life.
They will each give their consent to the other
and make solemn vows,
and in token of this they will each give and receive a ring.
We pray with them that the Holy Spirit will guide and strengthen them,
that they may fulfil God's purposes
for the whole of their earthly life together.

The Declarations

The minister says to the congregation

First, I am required to ask anyone present who knows a reason why these
persons may not lawfully marry, to declare it now.

The minister says to the couple

The vows you are about to take are to be made in the presence of God,
who is judge of all and knows all the secrets of our hearts;
therefore if either of you knows a reason why you may not lawfully marry,
you must declare it now.

The minister says to the bridegroom

Alex, will you take Barbara to be your wife?
Will you love her, comfort her, honour and protect her,
and, forsaking all others,
be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

He answers

I will.

The minister says to the bride

Barbara, will you take Alex to be your husband?
Will you love him, comfort him, honour and protect him,
and, forsaking all others,
be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

She answers

I will.

The minister says to the congregation

Will you, the families and friends of Alex and Barbara,
support and uphold them in their marriage
now and in the years to come?

All We will.

The Collect

God our Father,
from the beginning
you have blessed creation with abundant life.
Pour out your blessings upon Alex and Barbara,
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 for ever.

All Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

Julia Malpas *The Apocryphal reading is taken from the Book of Tobit, chapter 8, verses 4-8*

When the parents had gone out and shut the door of the room,
Tobias got out of bed and said to Sarah, ‘Sister, get up, and let us
pray and implore our Lord that he grant us mercy and safety.’

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.’

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

How welcome was the call,
and sweet the festal lay,
when Jesus deigned in Cana's hall
to bless the marriage-day!

And happy was the bride,
and glad the bridegroom's heart,
for he who tarried at their side
bade grief and ill depart.

His gracious power divine
the water vessels knew;
and plenteous was the mystic wine
the wondering servants drew.

O Lord of life and love,
come thou again today,
and bring a blessing from above
that ne'er shall pass away.

Before thine altar-throne
this mercy we implore:
as thou dost knit them, Lord, in one,
so bless them evermore.

Words:
H W Baker

Tune:
Sandys
(W Sandys)

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.

God made them male and female
and the two will become one.

Mark 10:8

All Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

John 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.'

And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.'

His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'

Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it.

When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.'

Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Rob Harnish

Sermon

The Marriage

Hymn

Jesus, Lord, we pray,
be our guest today;
gospel story has recorded
how your glory was afforded
to a wedding day;
be our guest we pray.

Words:
Basil E Bridge

Tune:
Cana
(*Alex Ball*)

Lord of love and life,
blessing man and wife
as they stand, their need confessing,
may your hand take theirs in blessing;
you will share their life;
bless this man and wife.

Lord of hope and faith,
faithful unto death,
let the rings serve as a token
of a love sincere, unbroken,
love more strong than death;
Lord of hope and faith.

The Vows

The couple stand before the minister

The minister introduces the vows in these or similar words

Alex and Barbara, I now invite you to join hands
and make your vows,
in the presence of God and his people.

The bride and bridegroom face each other.

The bridegroom takes the bride's right hand in his, and says

I, Alex, take you, Barbara,
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,
till death us do part;
according to God's holy law.
In the presence of God I make this vow.

They loose hands.

The bride takes the bridegroom's right hand in hers, and says

I, Barbara, take you, Alex,
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,
till death us do part;
according to God's holy law.
In the presence of God I make this vow.

They loose hands.

The Giving of Rings

The minister receives the ring(s), and says this prayer

Heavenly Father, source of everlasting love,
revealed to us in Jesus Christ
and poured into our hearts through your Holy Spirit;
that love which many waters cannot quench,
neither the floods drown;
that love which is patient and kind,
 enduring all things without end;
by your blessing, let these rings be to Alex and Barbara
symbols to remind them of the covenant made this day
through your grace in the love of your Son
and in the power of your Spirit.

*All **Amen.***

*The bridegroom places the ring on the third finger of the bride's
left hand, and, holding it there, says*

Barbara, I give you this ring
as a sign of our marriage.
With my body I honour you,
all that I am I give to you,
and all that I have I share with you,
within the love of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

They loose hands and the bride places a ring on the third finger of the bridegroom's left hand, and, holding it there, says

Alex, I give you this ring
as a sign of our marriage.
With my body I honour you,
all that I am I give to you,
and all that I have I share with you,
within the love of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Proclamation

The minister addresses the people

In the presence of God, and before this congregation,
Alex and Barbara 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.

The minister joins their right hands together and says

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

The Blessing of the Marriage

The husband and wife kneel. The minister blesses the couple.

All praise and blessing to you, God of love,
creator of the universe,
maker of man and woman in your likeness,
source of blessing for married life.
All praise to you, for you have created
courtship and marriage,
joy and gladness,
feasting and laughter,
pleasure and delight.
May your blessing come in full upon Alex and Barbara.
May they know your presence
in their joys and in their sorrows.
May they reach old age in the company of friends
and come at last to your eternal kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The minister says to the couple

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

During the signing of the registers, the congregation are asked to sit quietly and listen to the music provided.

Kate Shuttleworth *Sheep May Safely Graze — J S Bach*

Francis Ball

Prayers

Faithful God,
holy and eternal,
source of life and spring of love,
we thank and praise you for bringing Alex and Barbara
to this day,
and we pray for them.
Lord of life and love:

All **hear our prayer.**

May their marriage be life-giving and life-long,
enriched by your presence and strengthened by your grace;
may they bring comfort and confidence to each other
in faithfulness and trust.

Lord of life and love:

All **hear our prayer.**

May the hospitality of their home
bring refreshment and joy to all around them;
may their love overflow to neighbours in need
and embrace those in distress.

Lord of life and love:

All **hear our prayer**

May they discern in your word
order and purpose for their lives;
and may the power of your Holy Spirit
lead them in truth and defend them in adversity.
Lord of life and love:

All **hear our prayer.**

May they be tender with each other's dreams,
patient with their failures,
persistent with their hopes,
and come at last to the end of their lives
with hearts content and in joyful anticipation of heaven.
Lord of life and love:

All **hear our prayer.**

Father of all,
in Jesus Christ you open to us
the treasures of your kingdom;
guide us by your Holy Spirit
that we may receive your redeeming grace
and reflect the perfect unity of your love,
for you live and reign,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

To crown all things there must be love.
Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.
The peace of the Lord be always with you

All **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Hymn

Words:
Dorothy F Gurney

Tune:
Highwood
(*R R Terry*)

O perfect Love, all human thought transcending,
lowly we kneel in prayer before thy throne,
that theirs may be the love which knows no ending,
whom thou for evermore dost join in one.

O perfect Life, be thou their full assistance
of tender charity and steadfast faith,
of patient hope, and quiet brave endurance,
with childlike trust that fears nor pain nor death.

Grant them the joy which brightens earthly sorrow,
grant them the peace which calms all earthly strife;
and to life's day the glorious unknown morrow
that dawns upon eternal love and life.

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine

The following prayer is used

In your goodness, Lord,
accept the gift of our love,
and with a father's affection watch over this couple
you have joined in the covenant of marriage;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

All **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

All glory, honour, thanks and praise
be given to you, creator of heaven and earth.
When you made us in your image,
creating us male and female,
you gave us the gift of marriage.
When sin marred that image
you healed our brokenness,
giving your Son to die for us.
Therefore we raise our voices,
with all who have served you in every age,
to proclaim the glory of your name:

All **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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
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.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

All **Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has 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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

All **Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world: grant us peace.**

Giving of Communion

The gifts of God
for the people of God.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Communion is distributed.

*All are welcome at the altar. If you would like to receive a
blessing instead of communion, please bring this booklet with
you to the altar rail.*

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God,
may Alex and Barbara, who have been bound together
in these holy mysteries,
become one in body and soul.
May they live in faithfulness and peace
and obtain those eternal joys
prepared for all who love you;
through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

All **Faithful God,
in baptism you have adopted us as your children,
made us members of the body of Christ
and chosen us as inheritors of your kingdom:
we thank you that in this Eucharist
you renew your promises within us,
empower us by your Spirit to witness and to serve,
and send us out as disciples of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Hymn

Words:
W Williams
P Williams

Tune:
Cwm Rhondda
(John Hughes)

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand:
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs and praises, songs and praises
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.

the Dismissal

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.**

Recessional: Toccata in F — Charles-Marie Widor

The ministers and people hang around for cake and wine.