

Welcome to
The Celebration and Blessing of the Marriage of
AIDAN
CHRISTOPHER ANDREWS
AND
REBEKAH LEE SMITH



October 12, 2024

St. Luke Cedar Hill

Victoria, BC

Officiants Rev. Daniel Fournier and Rev. Joan Scandrett
Organist: Susanne Reul-Zastre

Please stand as you are able.

Wedding Procession: Rigaudon (Andre Campra)
(Please stand as you are able).

Welcome and Introduction.

*We acknowledge that we gather with respect on the traditional territories of the *lek'wəḡən* peoples, known in our day as the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, the traditional custodians of these lands. We are grateful for their hospitality.*

Please remain standing as you are able.

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

All: And also with you.

Opening Hymn: All Creatures of Our God and King
(#355 Common Praise Hymnbook)

Priest: Dear friends, we have come together in the presence of God to witness the marriage of *Aidan* and *Rebekah*, and to rejoice with them.

Marriage is a gift of God and a means of God's grace, in which man and woman become one flesh. It is God's purpose that, as husband and wife give themselves to each other in love, they shall grow together and be united in that love through their life's journey.

The union of man and woman in heart, body, and mind is intended for their mutual comfort and help, that they may know each other with delight and tenderness in acts of love.

In marriage, husband and wife give themselves to each other, to care for each other in good times and in bad. They are linked to each other's families, and they begin a new life together in the community.

It is a way of life that all should reverence, and none should lightly undertake.

If anyone present knows a reason why *Aidan* and *Rebekah* may not lawfully marry, they must declare it now.

Aidan and *Rebekah*, if either of you knows a reason why you may not lawfully marry, you must declare it now.

Aidan and *Rebekah* have come to enter this holy state. They have complied with Civil and Canon Law and have been duly prepared to enter into marriage. They will each give their consent to the other; they will exchange solemn vows, and in token of this, they will each give and receive a ring.

We pray with them that by God's help they may fulfil his purpose for the whole of their earthly life together.

The Collect of the Day

Priest: Let us pray.

God our Creator,
you have taught us through Christ Jesus
that love is the fulfilling of the law.
Grant to these your servants
that loving one another
they may continue in your love
until their lives' end;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

All: Amen.

Please be seated.

The Liturgy of the Word

FIRST READING: Genesis 2: 18-24

(Reader: Neil Smith)

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Genesis

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air and brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle and to the birds of the air and to every animal of the field, but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken."

Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

At the end of the reading:

Reader: Word of God, Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: 19: 1-10

The heavens are telling the glory of God,
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.

**There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
yet their voice goes out through all the earth
and their words to the end of the world.**

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

**Its rising is from the end of the heavens
and its circuit to the end of them,
and nothing is hid from its heat.**

The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure,
making wise the simple;

**the precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear,
enlightening the eyes;**

the fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true
and righteous altogether.

**More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb.**

SECOND READING: Romans 12: 1-2, 9-13

(Reader: Crystal Smith)

Reader: A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

At the end of the reading:

Reader: Word of God, Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn: Deck Yourself, My Soul With Gladness

(#78 Common Praise Hymbook)

GOSPEL: John 15: 9-17
(Reader: Marilyn Andrews)

Reader: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Reader: The Holy Gospel of Christ Jesus, according to John.

All: Glory to you, Christ Jesus.

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. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

At the end of the Gospel:

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, Christ Jesus.

Reflection: The Rev. Daniel Fournier

The Wedding

The celebrant says to the bridegroom,

Priest: *Aidan* will you give yourself to *Rebekah* to be her husband: to love her, comfort her, honour and protect her; and forsaking all others, to be faithful to her so long as you both shall live?

Bridegroom: **I will.**

The celebrant says to the bride,

Priest: *Rebekah* will you give yourself to *Aidan* to be his wife: to love him, comfort him, honour and protect him; and forsaking all others, to be faithful to him so long as you both shall live?

Bride: **I will.**

The celebrant may address the following question to the families of the bride and bridegroom.

Priest: Do you, members of the families of *Aidan* and *Rebekah*, give your blessing to this marriage?

Answer: **We do.**

The celebrant addresses the following to all present.

Priest: You are the witnesses to these vows now being made. Will you do all in your power to support and uphold this marriage?

Answer: **We will.**

The Vows

The bride and bridegroom face each other and join hands.

Aidan: I *Aidan* take you *Rebekah* 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
for the rest of our lives,
according to God's holy law.
This is my solemn vow.

Rebekah: I *Rebekah* take you *Aidan* 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
for the rest of our lives,
according to God's holy law.
This is my solemn vow.

Blessing of the Rings

The couple loose hands. The celebrant receives the rings and addresses the congregation in these words.

Priest: Dear friends in Christ,
let us ask God to bless these rings, that they may be a
symbol of the vow and covenant Aidan and Rebekah
have made this day.

The community may pray silently. The celebrant then says:

Priest: Blessed are you, God of steadfast love,
source of our joy and end of our hope.
Bless these rings given and received
that they may be a symbol of the vow and covenant
Aidan and Rebekah have made this day,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The bridegroom (and the bride in her turn) places the ring on the ring-finger of the other's hand and says,

Aidan: *Rebekah*, I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow. With all that I am and all that I have, I honour you in the name of God.

Rebekah: *Aidan*, I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow. With all that I am and all that I have, I honour you in the name of God.

The bride and bridegroom join right hands.

Priest: *Aidan* and *Rebekah* have joined themselves to each other by solemn vows, signified by the joining of hands and the giving and receiving of rings. I declare 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.

All: Amen.

The Signing of Registry and Documents

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Hymn During the Preparation of the Gifts:

When Love is Found

(text: Brian Wren; tune: O Waly, Waly)

**When love is found and hope comes home,
sing and be glad that two are one.**

**When love explodes and fills the sky,
praise God, and share our Maker's joy.**

**When love has flowered in trust and care,
build both each day, that love may dare
to reach beyond home's warmth and light,
to serve and strive for truth and right.**

**When love is tried as loved-ones change,
hold still to hope, though all seems strange,
till ease returns and love grows wise
through listening ears and opened eyes.**

**When love is torn, and trust betrayed,
pray strength to love till torments fade,
till lovers keep no score of wrong,
but hear through pain love's Easter song.**

**Praise God for love, praise God for life,
in age or youth, in calm or strife.
Lift up your hearts! Let love be fed
through death and life in broken bread.**

Prayer Over the Gifts

Priest: God of the covenant, hear our prayer,
and accept all we offer you this day.
You have made Aidan and Rebekah one
in the sacrament of marriage.
May the mystery of Christ's unselfish love,
which we celebrate in this eucharist,
increase their love for you and for each other;
through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Priest: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to God.

Priest: Let us give thanks to our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Priest: Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise in the assembly

of your people. You made us in your image: male and female you created us.

You give us the gift of marriage and call us to reflect your faithfulness as we serve one another in the bond of covenant love. 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 the one who comes
in the name of our God.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Priest: Gracious God, we give thanks to you for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Anointed One. He was born of Mary to be the Saviour 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 he was handed over to suffering and death, Christ Jesus 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,

All: We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory;

Priest: And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, God 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. In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your beloved ones; through Jesus Christ our Saviour, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

All: Amen

Priest: Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us:

**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.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Priest: We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

**All: God here among us, light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

Priest: These are the gifts of God for you, the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

***ALL ARE WELCOMED AND INVITED
TO RECEIVE COMMUNION***

Hymn After Communion: Come Down, O Love Divine
(#645 Common Praise Hymn Book)

Prayers for Aidan and Rebekah (*Rachel Short*)

Embraced by the love of Christ
we bring our prayers for Aidan and Rebekah to God.
and give thanks that in your love
you have brought them together.

God, Source of all love,

Bless this marriage.

We thank you for all whose love has led them
to this day of commitment,
especially for their parents and close friends,
those here today,
and those unable to be in our midst this day.

God, Source of all love,

Bless this marriage.

Help them, Loving God, to grow together
in faithfulness and honesty,
in mutual trust and patience.

God, Source of all love,

Bless this marriage.

May their life together be a sign of your love
in this broken world,
where forgiveness may heal injury,
justice overcome inequity,
and joy triumph over sorrow.

God, Source of all love,
Bless this marriage.

Be with them in their work,
and renew them in their leisure.
may they grow in friendship
and delight in one another's company.

God, Source of all love,
Bless this marriage.

May they welcome into their home
both friends and strangers,
and so reflect Christ's hospitality towards all people.

God, Source of all love,
Bless this marriage.

May those of us who have witnessed
the covenant made here this day
find our own relationships strengthened
and faith in your love renewed.

God, Source of all love,
Bless this marriage.

Loving God, you have called us your beloved.
Give us strength to work with you and with each other
in building a world where love can live.
We ask all this in the name of Christ Jesus.
Amen.

The Nuptial Blessing:

Priest: Blessed are you, our God,
for you have created joy and gladness,
pleasure and delight, love, peace and fellowship.
Pour out the abundance of your blessing
upon Aidan and Rebekah
as they journey forward 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.

All: Amen.

Priest: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit,
bless, preserve, and keep you;
God's merciful favour be 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.

Introduction of the Newly Married Couple and the kiss.

Sending: *Allegro* from Sonata in G-major (Domenico Scarlatti)