

**The Celebration and  
Blessing of the Marriage  
of  
Katherine Hancock Ragsdale  
and  
Margaret Ewing Lloyd**



**Saturday, 1 January 2011**

**St. Paul's Cathedral, 138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111**

# The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage

## PRELUDES

*Everyone is invited to join in singing the carols from The Hymnal 1982,  
which is found in the pews.*

“Joy to the World”	The Hymnal 1982, #100 <i>Antioch</i>
“Lo how a rose”	The Hymnal 1982, #81 <i>Es ist ein Ros</i>
“Angels we have heard on high”	The Hymnal 1982, #96 <i>Gloria</i>

Cover Art: “Nativity” by Kathy Thaden, Trinity Church, Kremmling, CO. Used by permission.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN:  
 "All creatures of our God and King"

The Hymnal 1982, #400  
*Lasst uns erfreuen*



1 All crea - tures of our God and King, lift up your voic - es, let us  
 \*2 Great rush - ing winds and breez - es soft, you clouds that ride the heavens a -  
 \*3 Swift flow - ing wa - ter, pure and clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to  
 4 Dear mo - ther earth, you day by day un - fold your bless - ings on our  
 5 All you with mer - cy in your heart, for - giv - ing o - thers, take your  
 \*6 And ev - en you, most gen - tle death, wait - ing to hush our fi - nal  
 7 Let all things their cre - a - tor bless, and wor - ship him in hum - ble -



1 sing; Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Bright burn - ing  
 2 loft, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Fair ris - ing  
 3 hear, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Fire, so in -  
 4 way, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! All flowers and  
 5 part, O — sing now: Al - le - lu - ia! All you that  
 6 breath, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! You lead back  
 7 ness, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God the



1 sun with gold - en beams, pale sil - ver moon that gen - tly gleams,  
 2 morn, with praise re - joice, stars night - ly shin - ing, find a voice,  
 3 tense and fierce - ly bright, you give to us both warmth and light,  
 4 fruits that in you grow, let them his glo - ry al - so show:  
 5 pain and sor - row bear, praise God, and cast on him your care:  
 6 home the child of God, for Christ our Lord that way has trod:  
 7 Fa - ther, praise the Son, and praise the Spi - rit, Three in One:

*Refrain*



O praise God, O praise God, Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*The refrain may be sung antiphonally, by phrase; all join in the final Alleluia.*

Words: St. Francis of Assisi (1882-1226); tr. William H. Draper (1855-1933), alt. Music: *Lasst uns erfreuen*, melody from *Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng*, 123; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) Copyright: Music: By permission of Oxford University Press. From "The Hymnal 1982" © 1982 Church Publishing Company, Inc., New York, NY. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-707998

*The Celebrant addresses the congregation*

Dearly beloved: We have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of these women in Holy Matrimony. Holy Scripture tells us that all love is from God, and the commitment of marriage signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and the Church. The union of God's children 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 Katherine Hancock Ragsdale and Margaret Ewing Lloyd now come to be joined.

If any of you can show just cause why they may not lawfully be married, speak now; or else forever 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

*Celebrant*

Katherine, will you have this woman to be your spouse; 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?

*Katherine* I will.

Mally, will you have this woman to be your spouse; 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?

*Mally* I will.

THE SIGNING OF THE MARRIAGE LICENSE

*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

*The Celebrant then says to the People*

May God be with you.

*People*            And also with you.

Let us pray.

O gracious and everliving God, you have created us in your image: Look mercifully upon Mally and Katherine 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 FIRST READING: Ruth 1: 16-18

Ruth said to Naomi,

‘Do not press me to leave you  
or to turn back from following you!

Where you go, I will go;

where you lodge, I will lodge;  
your people shall be my people,  
and your God my God.

Where you die, I will die—  
there will I be buried.

May the Lord do thus and so to me,  
and more as well,

if even death parts me from you!’

When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

*People*            Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND READING: From “Goodridge vs. Department of Health” by Massachusetts  
Supreme Court Chief Justice Margaret H. Marshall

Marriage is a vital social institution. The exclusive commitment of two individuals to each other nurtures love and mutual support; it brings stability to our society. For those who choose to marry, and for their children, marriage provides an abundance of legal, financial, and social benefits. In return it imposes weighty legal, financial, and social obligations....Without question, civil marriage enhances the “welfare of the community.” It is a “social institution of the highest importance.” ... Marriage also bestows enormous private and social advantages on those who choose to marry. Civil marriage is at once a deeply personal commitment to another human being and a highly public celebration of the ideals of mutuality, companionship, intimacy, fidelity, and family.... Because it fulfils yearnings for security, safe haven, and connection that express our common humanity, civil marriage is an esteemed institution, and the decision whether and whom to marry is among life’s momentous acts of self-definition.

GOSPEL HYMN:

The Hymnal 1982, #437

“Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!”

*Birmingham*

1 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord!  
2 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of his Name!  
3 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of God's might!  
4 Tell out, my soul, the glo - ries of her word!

Un - num - bered bless - ings give my spi - rit voice;  
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;  
Powers and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by.  
Firm is her prom - ise, and her mer - cy sure.

ten - der to me the prom - ise of God's word;  
his mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;  
Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,  
Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord

in God my Sa - vior shall my heart re - joice.  
his ho - ly Name— the Lord, the Might - y One.  
the hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.  
to chil - dren's chil - dren and for ev - er - more!

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926); based on *The Song of Mary* Music: *Birmingham*, from *Repository of Sacred Music, Part II*, 1813; harm. *Songs of Praise*, 1925 Copyright: Words: Copyright © 1962 by Hope Publishing Company Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. From “The Hymnal 1982” © 1982 Church Publishing Company, Inc., New York, NY. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-707998

THE GOSPEL: Luke 10:38-41

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
*People*            Glory to you, O Christ.

Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.' But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.'

The Gospel of Christ.  
*People*            Praise to you, O Christ.

THE HOMILY

“Alleluia”      Ana Hernandez

THE MARRIAGE

*Each in turn takes the right hand of the other, and says*

In the Name of God, I, Mally, take you, Katherine, to be my own, 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.

In the Name of God, I, Katherine, take you, Mally, to be my own, 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.*

*The Celebrant may ask God's blessing on a ring or rings as follows*

Bless, O Lord, these rings to be a sign of the vows by which Katherine and Mally 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*

Mally, 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 God.

Katherine, 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 God.

*Then the Celebrant joins the right hands of the two and says*

Now that Mally and Katherine 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 united in marriage, 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.*

*Please remain seated during the prayers.*

Let us pray.

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 these your children 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.*

Watch over their children, nieces and nephews as they grow into adulthood, that they may be sure of Mally and Katherine's love and support, and yours. *Amen.*

Give them such fulfillment of their mutual affection that they may reach out in love and concern for others. *Amen.*

Grant that all couples 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.*

*Katherine and Mally*

God of tenderness and strength, you have brought our paths together and lead us to this day; go with us now as we travel through good times, through trouble, or through change. Bless our home, our partings, and our meetings. Make us worthy of each other's best, and tender with each other's dreams, trusting in your love in Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

THE BLESSING OF THE MARRIAGE

*All stand, as able. The Celebrant 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 all families in his Name. By the power of your Holy Spirit, pour out the abundance of your blessing upon this family. 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.*

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 Christ be always with you.  
*People*        And also with you.

**Announcements**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Enriching our Worship, Eucharistic Prayer 2*

Music by D'Ambrosios

*Celebrant* God 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 our thanks and praise.**

*The Celebrant continues*

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant.

From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us.

Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

“Holy, holy, holy Lord”

The Hymnal 1982, #S128

The musical score is written on five staves of music. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est." The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a clear melody and accompaniment.

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*The Celebrant continues*

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

Then the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you. On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friend. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with Ruth and Naomi, Mary and Martha and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

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

*Celebrant and People*

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.

*Celebrant* We break this bread to share in the body of Christ  
*People* We who are many are one body for we all share in the one bread

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that  
Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with  
thanksgiving.

Music at Communion

“Every Stone Shall Cry”

Ana Hernandez

“Love divine, all loves excelling”

The Hymnal 1982, #657

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) From "The Hymnal 1982" © 1982 Church Publishing Company, Inc., New York, NY. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-707998

*Postcommunion Prayer*

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, Katherine and Mally, 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.*

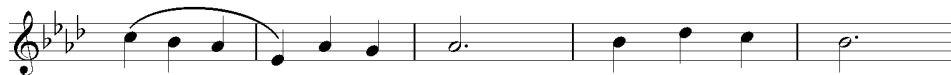
HYMN:

“Earth and all stars”

The Hymnal 1982, #412



1 Earth and all stars, loud rush - ing plan - ets, sing to the  
2 Hail, wind, and rain, loud blow - ing snow - storms, sing to the  
3 Trum - pet and pipes, loud clash - ing cym - bals, sing to the  
4 En - gines and steel, loud pound - ing ham - mers, sing to the  
5 Class - rooms and labs, loud boil - ing test - tubes, sing to the  
6 Know - ledge and truth, loud sound - ing wis - dom, sing to the



1 Lord \_\_\_\_\_ a new song! O vic - to - ry,  
2 Lord \_\_\_\_\_ a new song! Flow - ers and trees,  
3 Lord \_\_\_\_\_ a new song! Harp, lute, and lyre,  
4 Lord \_\_\_\_\_ a new song! Lime - stone and beams,  
5 Lord \_\_\_\_\_ a new song! Ath - lete and band,  
6 Lord \_\_\_\_\_ a new song! Daugh - ter and son,



1 loud shout - ing ar - my, sing to the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ a new song!  
2 loud rus - tling dry leaves, sing to the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ a new song!  
3 loud hum - ming cel - los, sing to the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ a new song!  
4 loud build - ing work - ers, sing to the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ a new song!  
5 loud cheer - ing peo - ple, sing to the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ a new song!  
6 loud pray - ing mem - bers, sing to the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ a new song!



God hath done mar - vel - ous things.



I, too, will praise God with a new song!

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