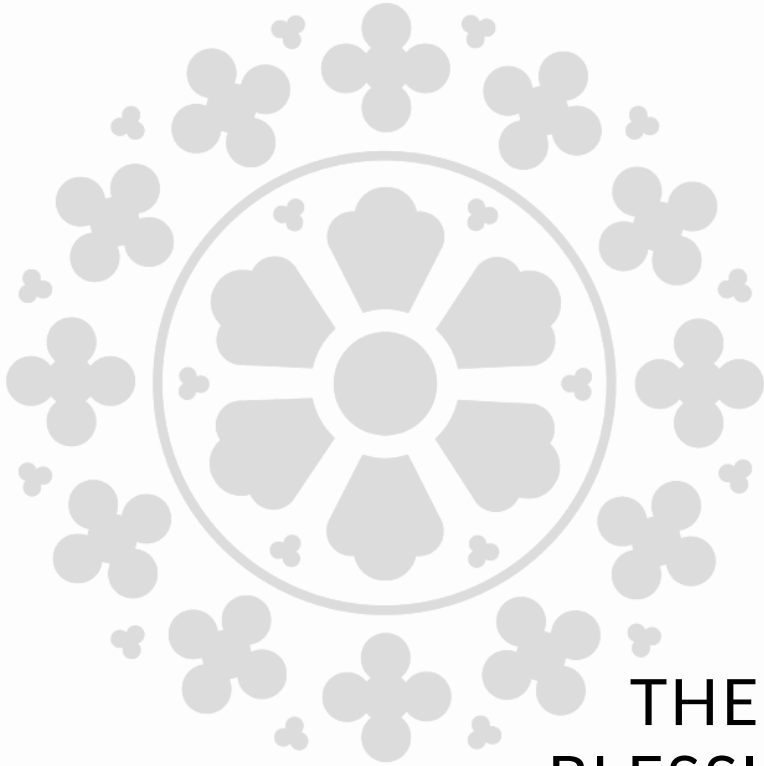




THE CELEBRATION AND BLESSING OF A MARRIAGE

between

Gillian Faith Ivy Jaen

and

Brad Russell Williamson Absolon

Saturday 22 August 2026

3 p.m.

The Gathering of the Community

PROCESSIONAL

Air on a G String (J.S. Bach)

The people stand. The couple stands before the officiant. The officiant greets the congregation

DOMINICAL GREETING

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

And also with you.

GREETING

Dearly beloved: we have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of Brad and Gillian 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 the Church, and so it is worthy of being honoured 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.

If anyone present knows a reason why Gillian and Brad may not lawfully marry, they must declare it now.

Brad and Gillian, if either of you knows a reason why you may not lawfully marry, you must declare it now.

Gillian and Brad 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 with God's help they may fulfil this sacred purpose for the whole of their earthly life together.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. O gracious and everliving God, you have created humankind in your image: Look mercifully upon Brad and Gillian who come to you seeking your blessing, and assist them with your grace, that with true fidelity and steadfast love they may honour 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 Proclamation of the Word

SONG OF SOLOMON 2:10-13; 8:6-7

read by Reuben Radford

A reading from the 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 turtle-dove 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 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.

Here ends the reading.

PSALM 100

Be joyful in the Lord, *
all you lands;

serve the Lord with gladness
and come into the divine presence with a song.

Know this: the Lord, the Lord, is God; *
the One made us and to whom we belong;
we are God's people, the sheep of God's pasture.

Enter the gates of the Lord with thanksgiving; go into these courts with praise; *
give thanks to God and call upon the name of the Lord.

For the Lord is good, whose steadfast love is everlasting; *
and whose faithfulness endures from age to age.

1 JOHN 3:18-24

read by Jordan Hunter

A reading from the First Letter of John.

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Here ends the reading.

THE HOMILY

The Reverend Anna E. Rossi

The Wedding

THE DECLARATION OF CONSENT

The officiant addresses each member of the couple in turn

N., will you have this woman/man/person to be your wife/husband/spouse; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love her/him, comfort her/him, honour and keep her/ him, in sickness and in health, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her/him as long as you both shall live?

Each in turn replies

I will.

The officiant addresses the congregation

You are the witnesses to these vows now being made. Will you do all in your power to support and uphold these two persons in their marriage? If so, say "we will."

We will.

THE MARRIAGE

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

In the Name of God, I, N., take you, N., to be my wife/ husband/spouse, 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.

THE BLESSING OF THE RINGS

The officiant addresses the congregation in these or similar words.

Dear friends in Christ, let us ask God to bless these rings as signs of the vows by which Brad and Gillian have bound themselves to each other.

Silence may be kept. Then, the officiant continues

Blessed are you, God of steadfast love, source of our joy and end of our hope. Bless these rings to be signs of the vows by which Gillian and Brad 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 honour you, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

THE PRONOUNCEMENT OF THE MARRIAGE

Now that Brad and Gillian 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 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.

Amen.

The Prayers and Blessing

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us then pray for the couple in their life together and for the concerns of this community.

For Brad and Gillian seeking your blessing and the blessing of your holy people;

Loving God,

Hear our prayer.

For a spirit of loving-kindness to shelter them all their days;

Loving God,

Hear our prayer.

For friends to support them and communities to enfold them;

Loving God,

Hear our prayer.

For peace in their home and love in their family;

Loving God,

Hear our prayer.

For the grace and wisdom to care for the children you entrust to them;

Loving God,

Hear our prayer.

For the honesty to acknowledge when they hurt each other, and the humility to seek each other's forgiveness and yours;

Loving God,

Hear our prayer.

For the outpouring of your love through their work and witness;

Loving God,

Hear our prayer.

For the strength to keep the vows each of us has made;

Loving God,

Hear our prayer.

For those who seek justice, peace, and concord among nations;

Loving God,

Hear our prayer.

For those who are sick or suffering, homeless or poor;

Loving God,

Hear our prayer.

For victims of violence and those who inflict it;

Loving God,

Hear our prayer.

For communion with [those who have gone before us, among them: } and all who have died

Loving God,

Hear our prayer.

The officiant concludes with the following or another appropriate collect

Giver of every gift, source of all goodness, hear the prayers we bring before you for Brad and Gillian. Strengthen them as they share in your sacred work, and bring about for them and for all you have created the fullness of life Jesus promised, who now lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

**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.**

THE BLESSING OF THE MARRIAGE

The people remain standing. The couple kneels, and the officiant continues.

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 this man and this woman. 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.

The couple still kneeling, the officiant adds this blessing

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully and with divine favour 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 couple stands.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

The newly married couple greet each other, after which greetings are exchanged throughout the congregation.

RECESSIONAL

Wedding March (Felix Mendelssohn)



SERVING IN TODAY'S LITURGY

Officiant The Reverend Anna E. Rossi, *Vicar*
Musician Donald Hunt, *Director of Music*

THE WEDDING PARTY

Witnesses	Emma Hunter Jordan Hunter
Bride's Attendants	Emma Hunter Mullen Mcpeak Danielle Lembcke
Groom's Attendants	Jordan Hunter Riley Taylor Spencer Robbins Gavin Shepherd Reuben Radford Kartik Vashishta
Flower Girl	Ellie Hunter
Ring Bearer	David Absolon
Parents of the Bride	David & Kelly Jaen
Parents of the Groom	Rod & Lorraine Absolon