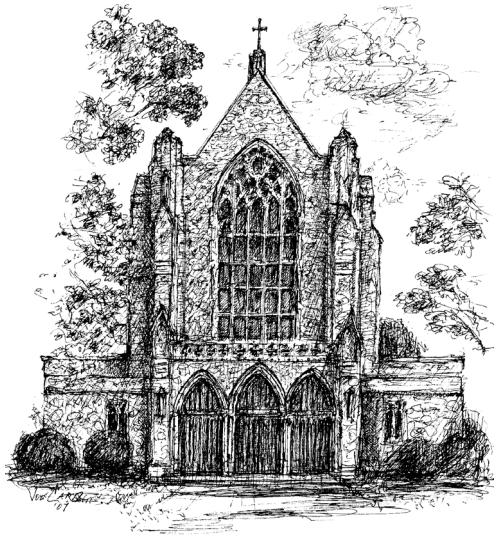


# The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage



Anne Elizabeth O'Hagan  
and  
Graham Hudson Pergande

*St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
Richmond, Virginia*

*Saturday, June 1, 2024  
5:30 p.m.*

## **Concerning the Service**

Holy Matrimony is the sacramental rite in which two people enter into a life-long union, making their vows before God and the community, and receiving the grace and blessing of God to help them fulfill their vows. The congregation at a wedding supports the couple with their presence and prayers. The congregation also takes a special pledge to support and uphold the couple in their marriage.

**To preserve a spirit of worship**, please silence all electronic devices as soon as you enter the church and do not use mobile devices before or during the liturgy. No photography or videography is permitted.

## **Prelude**

### **Procession**

Salut d'amour, Op. 12  
Jesu, joy of man's desiring  
*Moon River*

Edward Elgar  
J.S. Bach  
Henry Mancini

*Please stand.*

*The Celebrant, facing the people and the persons to be married, addresses the congregation and says*

Dearly beloved: We have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of Anne Elizabeth O'Hagan and Graham Hudson Pergande 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 his Church, and so it is worthy of being honored 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. Into this holy union Annabel and Graham now come to be joined. If any of you can show just cause why they may not lawfully be married, speak now; or else for ever 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 knows 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**

*The Celebrant says*

Annabel, will you have this man to be your husband; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

*She answers*

I will.

*The Celebrant says*

Graham, will you have this woman to be your wife; 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?

*He answers*

I will.

*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*

The Lord be with you.

*People*        **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O gracious and everliving God, you have created humankind in your image: Look mercifully upon Annabel and Graham 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 Readings**        *Please be seated.*

**The First Lesson**    I Corinthians 13:4-13

*Following each reading, the Reader says*

The Word of the Lord.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

**The Second Lesson**   1 John 4:7-16

## **The Gospel** John 15:9-12

*All standing, the Deacon reads the Gospel, first saying*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*People*      **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

*After the Gospel, the Deacon says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*      **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **The Homily**

## **The Marriage**

*Annabel, facing Graham and taking his right hand, says*

In the Name of God, I, Annabel, take you, Graham, 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, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

*Then they loose their hands, and Graham, facing Annabel and taking her right hand, says*

In the Name of God, I, Graham, take you, Annabel, 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, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

*They loose their hands.*

*The Priest asks God's blessing on the rings as follows*

Bless, O Lord, these rings to be signs of the vows by which this couple 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*

Graham, 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 the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Annabel, 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 the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

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

Now that Annabel and Graham 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**

*All standing, the Celebrant says*

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 this couple 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.**

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

Grant that all married persons 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.**

## **The Blessing of the Marriage**

*The people remain standing. The newly married couple kneels, and the Priest 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 the union of two people in his Name. By the power of your Holy Spirit, pour out the abundance of your blessing upon Annabel and Graham. 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 kneeling, the Priest adds this blessing*

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**

*The Celebrant says to the people*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*

**And also with you.**

*The newly married couple then greet each other,  
after which greetings may be exchanged throughout the congregation.*

# The Holy Communion

## The Great Thanksgiving

*The people stand. The Celebrant faces them and says*

The Lord 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 God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because in the marriage of two people in faithful love you reveal the joy and abundant life you share with your Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Celebrant and People*

**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.**

*The Celebrant continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior 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 before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ 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, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord 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. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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

*People and Celebrant*

**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.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

*Then may be sung or said*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words*

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [**Amen.**]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [**Amen.**]

## Music during communion

**Solo**      *How Great Thou Art*

Carl Boberg

**Hymn 686** Come thou fount of every blessing

*Nettleton*

*The hymn is found in The Hymnal 1982, the blue book in the pew rack. It is sung by all, seated.*

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

**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, Annabel and Graham, 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.**

*The priest blesses the people.*

*The Deacon dismisses the people with these words*

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

## Retiring Procession

Toccata from Symphony for organ No. 5

Charles-Marie Widor



## Participants

<i>Clergy</i>	The Rev. Cate Anthony, <i>celebrant</i> The Rev. Ryan Kuratko, <i>homilist</i>
<i>Matron of Honor</i>	Rosemary O'Hagan
<i>Bridesmaids</i>	Priyanka Amin, Janet Ho, Celia Kenney, Hannah Pergande, Ashley Lalonde Reimers, Victoria Roe, Elle Shaheen, Christina Van Essen, Alexandra Warshay
<i>Best Men</i>	Morgan Pergande Spencer Pergande
<i>Groomsmen</i>	Chris Anderson, Mourad Berrached, Benjamin Fortson, Yosef Medhin, Wheat O'Hagan, Henry O'Hagan, Jöelle Simeu, Cole Vick
<i>Blossom Brigade</i>	Bunny Berg and Hudson Pergande escorted by Joel Berg
<i>Readers</i>	William Kleinheinz, Whitney Alcorn, Jonathan Tucker
<i>Greeters</i>	Lily Damgard, Emma Sakakeeny
<i>Ushers</i>	Edward Hudson, Heeth Varnedoe
<i>Musicians</i>	Treesa Gold, <i>violin</i> Peter Greydanus, <i>cello</i> Ellen Riccio, <i>violin</i> Kimberly Ryan, <i>viola</i> Ashley Lalonde Reimers, <i>soloist</i> Brent te Velde, <i>organ</i>
<i>Parents of the Bride</i>	Kate and Kevin O'Hagan
<i>Parents of the Groom</i>	Frasher and John Pergande
<i>Grandparents of the Bride</i>	Sue and Jim O'Hagan
<i>Grandparents of the Groom</i>	Terry and Jude Ryan



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