

# The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage



WILLIAM HUME FERGUSON

and

WILLIAM SMYTH STANLEY

Friday, May Ninth, Two Thousand Twenty-Five

at four o'clock

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Richmond, Virginia

# Welcome!

We couldn't be more thrilled that you have joined us for this special occasion of faith, hope, and love.

Whether you've come from far and wide or have lived in Richmond your whole life; whether you're closer to Will F. or Will S.; whether you're a longtime churchgoer or enter this sacred space today for the first time: we are honored by your presence. Thank you for joining us on this transformational day in our life together. This service encapsulates many of our shared values: our Episcopal faith, our passion for music, and our love of family and friends.

We are grateful that three clergy close to us will share in the celebration and blessing of our marriage. J. Neil Alexander has been a mentor to Will S. since 2008, and later was the bishop who sent him to seminary. Janet Vincent served as rector of the parish where Will S's sense of call was first nurtured: St. Columba's Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C., and she remains a mentor and close family friend. John Rohrs is the rector here at St. Stephen's Church, and our cherished connection with him and his family is represented today by John preaching and two of his children serving as reader and acolyte.

Of course, we both share a devotion to music, which today takes "center stage." Two of Will F's very dear and longtime friends, Georgia Jarman and Brenda Patterson, sing arias by Handel, all of which have figured significantly throughout Will F's life and career. Franz Biebl's *Ave Maria* carries memories of Will F's time singing at St. Christopher's School, as it does for Will S. who sang it while a student at the American Boychoir School. *O How Amiable*, with its bold affirmation in the faithfulness of God to sustain us in times of joy and pain alike, was sung at Will S's ordination to the diaconate in 2014. The first of three choral anthems today, "God so loved the world," comes from Sir John Stainer's *The Crucifixion*, an oratorio Will F. has sung several times at The Brick Presbyterian Church in New York City. Leading those performances was The Brick's Minister of Music, Keith Tóth, a mutual friend of ours and the person who introduced us to each other. We wish also to offer special thanks to our treasured friend and colleague Jeffrey Riehl who assembled and leads our outstanding choir today.

And because singing together is a powerful act of unity and joy, we have great hymns! Each is significant to us in different ways: *Hyfrydol* for Will S., *Sine Nomine* for Will F. (again, from St. Christopher's School), and *Slane* which is especially meaningful to Will S's mother Kathleen. *I Am the Bread of Life* was an early point of connection for us as it figures prominently at Easter at both St. James' in New York, where Will F. sang in the choir, and All Saints' in Beverly Hills, where Will S. served as Associate Rector. It proclaims the power of resurrection so resolutely that many often feel inspired to "raise up" their own arms and hands on the refrain. You are free to participate in this less-than-characteristically Episcopal act of witness, should you think it meet and right so to do ☺. The harmonization and descant for the final verse of *Abbot's Leigh* was created by our great friend Patrick Scott, who serves as one of Will S's attendants. Please make a joyful noise and sing out!

Finally, instead of reciting a psalm, we will hear a new musical setting of Psalm 133, *Ecce quam bonum*. This psalm serves as the motto for The University of the South, Will S's alma mater. Its joyful message extolling the rightness and beauty of brethren living together in unity resonates with us on many fronts. We are incredibly grateful to our beloved friend, the fiercely talented Matt Boehler, for his inspired piece composed especially for today's service.

Thank you again for being here and sharing in this happy day. Your presence and love mean the world to us.

Love, The Wills



*To preserve a spirit of worship, please silence all electronic devices as soon as you enter the church.  
Please do not take photographs or use mobile devices before or during the liturgy.*



# The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage

William Hume Ferguson and William Smyth Stanley

Friday, May 9, 2025 at 4 o'clock

## Prelude

Prelude and Fugue in E-flat major, BWV 552

J.S. Bach

Air

Gerre Hancock

“Let the bright seraphim,” Aria from *Samson*

George Frideric Handel

Georgia Jarman SOPRANO Sam Huss TRUMPET

Let the bright seraphim in burning row, their loud, uplifted angel trumpets blow. Let the cherubic host, in tuneful choirs, touch their immortal harps with golden wires.

## Procession of the Wedding Party

“Ave Maria”

Franz Biebl

*Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariae et concepit de Spiritu Sancto.*

The Angel of the Lord announced to Mary and she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

REFRAIN: *Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum, benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.*

REFRAIN: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with Thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

*Et verbum caro factum est et habitavit in nobis.* REFRAIN

And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. REFRAIN

*Sancta Maria, Mater Dei, ora pro nobis peccatoribus nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.*

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

## Procession of the Grooms

“Ombra mai fu,” Aria from *Xerxes*

*Please stand as you are able.*

George Frideric Handel

Brenda Patterson MEZZO-SOPRANO

*Ombra mai fu di vegetabile cara ed amabile, soave più.*

Never was a shade of any tree more cherished or lovely, or more sweet.

1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
 2. Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy life re - ceive;  
 3. Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less let us be;  
 fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.  
 sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.  
 let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in thee;  
 Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;  
 Thee we would be al - way bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,  
 changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place.  
 vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
 pray, and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

**Bishop Alexander**

Dearly beloved: We have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of Will and Will 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 William Hume Ferguson and William Smyth Stanley 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 Bishop 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 Bishop says to one member of the couple, then to the other**

Will, 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?

Answer I will.

Will, 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?

**Answer** I will.

*The Bishop 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

**Bishop** The Lord be with you.

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

**Bishop** Let us pray.

O gracious and everliving God, you have created humankind in your image: Look mercifully upon Will and Will 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.**

*Please be seated.*

**The First Reading** Song of Solomon 2:10–13; 8:6–7

Read by William David Rohrs

**Reader** 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 turtledove

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 his house,

it would be utterly scorned.

**Reader** The Word of the Lord.

**People** **Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem** “*Ecce quam bonum* (Psalm 133)”

*World Premiere*

Matt Boehler

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

*Ecce quam bonum et quam jucundum, habitare fratres in unum!*

It is like the precious oil upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron’s beard: that ran down to the skirts of his garments; it is as the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the LORD commanded the blessing, even life forever.

*This setting of Psalm 133 was composed for this occasion.*

*Reader* A Reading from the First Letter of John.

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. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 482 Lord of all hopefulness *All sing verses 1-3, standing as you are able. The choir alone sings verse 4.* *Slane*



1. Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,  
 2. Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,  
 3. Lord of all kind - l - ness, Lord of all grace,  
*Choir only* 4. Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,  
 whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could des - troy,  
 whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,  
 your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace,  
 whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm,  
 be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,  
 be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,  
 be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,  
 be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,  
 your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.  
 your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.  
 your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.  
 your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

The Gospel John 15: 9-17

*Please remain standing and face the reader of the Gospel.*

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

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

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.

*Assisting Priest* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Homily**

The Rev. John D. Rohrs



## The Marriage

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

In the Name of God, I, Will, take you, Will, 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.

In the Name of God, I, Will, take you, Will, 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.

*The Bishop asks God’s blessing on the rings as follows*

Bless, O Lord, these rings to be signs of the vows by which Will and Will 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*

Will, 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.

Will, 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 Bishop joins the right hands of the couple and says*

Now that Will and Will 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.

*People* **Amen.**

## The Prayers

*The Assisting Priest reads the following prayers, to which the People respond, Amen.*

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 Will and Will 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.**

Bestow on them, if it is your will, the gift and heritage of children, and the grace to bring them up to know you, to love you, and to serve you. **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 couple kneel, and the Bishop 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 Will and Will. 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 Bishop 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**

*Bishop* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

**Welcome**

The Rev. John D. Rohrs



## **The Holy Communion**

### **At the Offertory**

**Anthem** "O How Amiable"

Ralph Vaughan Williams

O how amiable are thy dwellings, thou Lord of hosts! My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord. My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God. Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house, and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young: even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be alway praising thee. The glorious majesty of the Lord our God be upon us; prosper thou the work of our hands upon us. O prosper thou our handywork. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

*During the anthem, oblations of bread and wine are brought forward to the altar by ushers to the grooms.*

## At the Presentation

Hymn 287 For all the saints

*Sine Nomine*

All sing verses 1, 2 and 4, standing as you are able. The choir alone sings verse 3.



1. For all the saints, who from their labors rest, who  
 2. Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;\_\_\_\_\_  
 3. O blest communion, fellowship divine!\_\_\_\_\_  
 4. From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, through

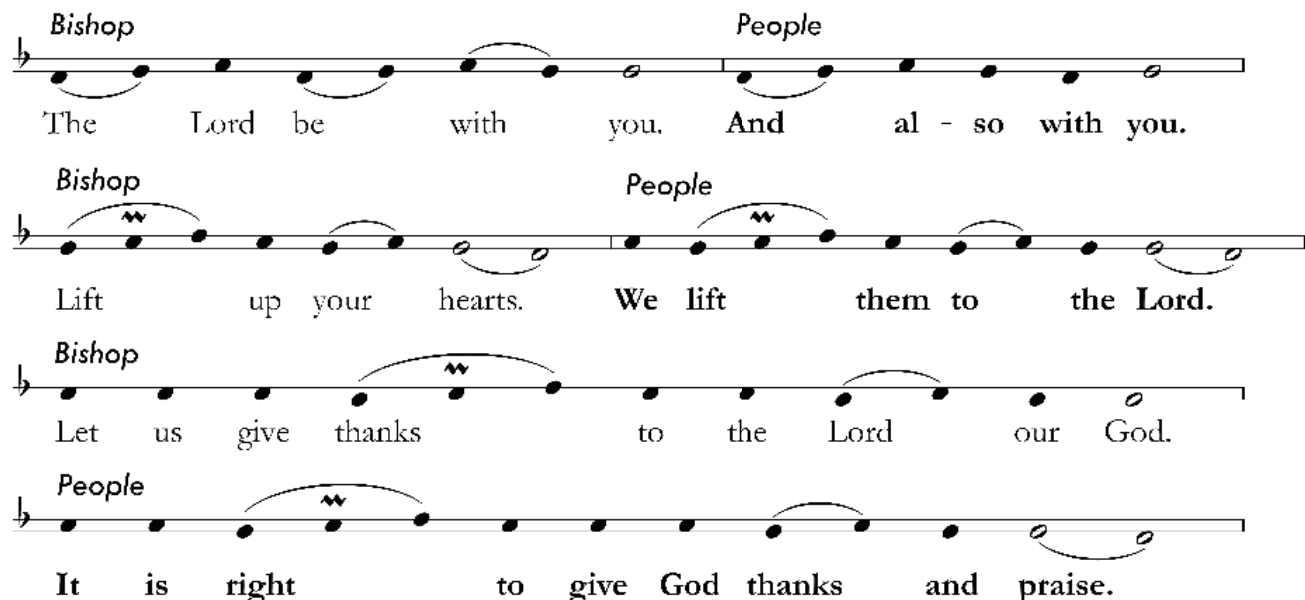
thee\_\_\_\_ by faith before the world confessed, thy  
 thou, Lord, their Cap - tain in the well-fought fight;\_\_\_\_\_  
 We feeb - ly strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; yet  
 gates\_\_\_\_ of pearl streams in the count - less host,\_\_\_\_

Name, O\_\_\_\_ Je - sus, be for ev - er blessed.  
 thou, in the dark - ness drear, the one true Light.  
 all are\_\_\_\_ one in thee, for all are thine.  
 sing - ing to I'a - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,

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

## The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B, The Book of Common Prayer, page 367



**Bishop** The Lord be with you. **People** And also with you.

**Bishop** Lift up your hearts. **People** We lift them to the Lord.

**Bishop** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People** It is right to give God thanks and praise.

### *Bishop*

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 union of two people in faithful love, we are bound in joy to our Savior Christ; who in his own offering of love makes the whole creation new. 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:

**Sanctus**      *Sung by all.*

S125–Richard Proulx, A Community Mass

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### *The people remain standing and the Bishop 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,

### *Bishop and People*

**We remember his death,**

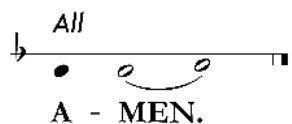
**We proclaim his resurrection,**

**We await his coming in glory;**

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 Stephen and 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.



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

*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,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

### The Breaking of the Bread

*The Bishop breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.*

Agnus Dei *Sung by all.*

S-158—Healey Willan from *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*



### The Invitation

*Bishop* This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is the Lord who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

## At the Communion of the People

*During the first anthem, the grooms and choir receive Communion at the high altar. After the aria, ministers will distribute Communion at the bottom of the chancel steps and in both side chapels. All are welcome at the altar in this place. The altar also extends to your pew if you need us to bring the sacrament to you; please let an usher know. To receive Communion, place your hands together, palms up. You may consume the bread and then drink from the wine in the larger chalice. If you prefer to "intinct" or touch the edge of your bread to the wine, please use one of the smaller cups, available at all stations. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms across your chest.*

## Music during Communion

**Anthem** "If God be for us," Aria from *Messiah* George Frideric Handel  
Georgia Jarman SOPRANO Rebecca Anderson VIOLIN

If God be for us, who can be against us? Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth: Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is at the right hand of God, who makes intercession for us.

**Anthem** "God so loved the world," Chorus from *The Crucifixion* Sir John Stainer

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.

**Anthem** "*Ubi caritas*" Maurice Duruflé

*Ubi caritas Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est.  
Congregavit nos in unum Christi amor.  
Exultemus, et in ipso iucundemur.  
Timeamus, et amemus Deum vivum.  
Et ex corde diligamus nos sincero.*

Where charity and love are, God is there.  
Christ's love has gathered us into one.  
Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him.  
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.  
And may we love each other with a sincere heart.

**Anthem** "Rise up, my love, my fair one" Healey Willan

Rise up my love, my fair one, and come away. For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear upon the earth. The time of singing of birds is come. Arise my love, my fair one, and come away.

After Communion

Hymn 335 I am the bread of life *Sung by all, standing as you are able.*

*I Am the Bread of Life*

*Verse 1: lower voices; Verse 2: higher voices; remaining verses sung by all.*

Lower voices 1. I am the bread of life; they who  
Higher voices 2. (The) Bread that I will give is my  
All 3. I am the re-sur-rec-tion,  
All 4. (Yes,) Lord we be-lieve that

come to me shall not hun-ger; they who be-  
Flesh for the life of the world. and they who  
I am the life. They who be-  
you are the Christ, the

lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to  
eat of this bread, they shall live for  
lieve in me. e-ven if they  
Son of God who has

me un-less the Fa-ther draw them,  
ev-er, they shall live for ev-er.  
die they shall live for ev-er.  
come, in-to the world.

*Refrain*  
And I will raise them up, and I will raise them up, and I will

raise them up on the last day. 2. The day.  
3.  
4. Ycs,

**Prayer after Communion**     *Please remain standing.*

Bishop    Let us pray.

Bishop 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, Will and Will, 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 Blessing**

*The Bishop blesses the people.*

Hymn 379    God is love

*Sung by all.*

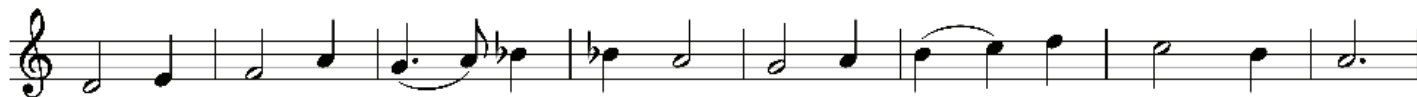
*Abbot's Leigh*



1. God is Love, let heaven a - dore him; God is Love, let earth re - joice;  
2. God is Love; and love en - folds us, all the world in one em - brace:  
3. God is Love; and though with blind-ness sin af - flicts all hu - man life,



let cre - a - tion sing be - fore him and ex - alt him with one voice.  
with un - fail - ing grasp God holds us, ev - ery child of ev - ery race.  
God's e - ter - nal lov - ing - kind-ness guides us through our earth - ly strife.



God who laid the earth's foun - da - tion, God who spread the heavens a - bove,  
And when hu - man hearts are break - ing un - der sor - row's i - ron rod,  
Sin and death and hell shall nev - er o'er us fi - nal tri - umph gain;



God who breathes through all cre - a - tion: God is Love, e - ter - nal Love.  
then we find that self - same ach - ing deep with - in the heart of God.  
God is Love, so Love for ev - er o'er the u - ni - verse must reign.

**The Dismissal**

Assisting Priest    Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia.

People     **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Retiring Procession     Toccata from Symphony No. 5

Charles-Marie Widor

*Please remain standing as the grooms and the wedding party process out of the church.*



**In Memoriam**

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Annie Adelia Mead Ferguson, W. K. Allen Ferguson, Ann Gazaly Ferguson Lamberton, Mary Rutherford Rose Mercer, George Riley Mercer, Pattie Rose Boatwright, Allen Mead Ferguson, Joan Trowbridge, Robert H. Trowbridge, Jr., Robert K. Smyth, Arthur P. Sterritt, Donald J. Smyth, Mitchell K. Stanley, Mary Fanning Stanley, Josephine Gresham Fanning, and James M. Fanning.

## Reception

All are invited to a festive reception outside! (In case of rain, please proceed to the parish house.)



## Participants

PRESIDER The Rt. Rev. Dr. J. Neil Alexander

*IX Bishop, The Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta*

*XXIII Chancellor, The University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee*

ASSISTING PRIEST The Rev. Janet Vincent

*Interim Rector, Christ's Church, Rye, New York*

*Former Rector, St. Columba's Episcopal Church, Washington, D.C.*

PREACHER The Rev. John D. Rohrs

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

### ATTENDANTS TO WILLIAM HUME FERGUSON

#### WOMAN OF HONOR

Jennifer Michelle Rivera

#### BEST MEN

Allen Mead Ferguson, Jr.

Thomas Rutherford Ferguson

Warren Mercer Ferguson

#### GROOMSPEOPLE

Mason Wesley Bates

Vanessa Byrd Conlin

Justin Eric Dorsen

Katherine Minahan Ferguson

Étienne Christophe Guérin

Michael Frederick Kelly

David Thomas Lawrence

John Claiborne Minor

David Daniel Portillo

### ATTENDANTS TO WILLIAM SMYTH STANLEY

#### BEST MAN

Adam Ross Kroll

#### GROOMSPEOPLE

William Speed Condon II

Christian Aaron Crocker

The Rev. Dr. Charles Thomas Dupree

The Rev. Broderick Lee Greer

Rhea David Hyatt II

The Very Rev. Nathaniel Peter Katz

Breckenridge Sellers Pappas

Dr. Patrick Hans Platzer

The Rev. Zachary Charles Nyein

Dr. Patrick Alan Scott

The Rev. Peter Douglas Thompson

Richard Lawson Walker, Jr.

### CHOIR DIRECTOR Dr. Jeffrey Riehl

*Associate Professor of Music and Director of Choirs, University of Richmond*

*Director of Music, Second Presbyterian Church of Richmond, Virginia*

### ORGANIST Dr. Brent te Velde

*Director of Music, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Richmond, Virginia*

### ORGANIST Diana Chou

*Associate Director of Music, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Richmond, Virginia*

### SOLOISTS

Georgia Jarman SOPRANO    Brenda Patterson MEZZO-SOPRANO

Rebecca Anderson VIOLIN    Sam Huss TRUMPET

### CHOIR

SOPRANOS Keely Borland, Laura Knouse, Sarah Walston, Margaret Woods

ALTOS Cassie Cippola, Becky Harper, Cecelia Luther, Amanda Simon

TENORS Nathan Bick, Matt Hassmer, Michael Hawn, Evan Heiter, Kevin Newell, Aaron Todd

BASSES Will Conn, Sam Cook, Malcolm Hines, Christopher Lindbloom, Daniel Stipe

ASSISTING CLERGY The Rev. Dr. William L. Sachs  
*Associate Rector, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Richmond, Virginia*

SUBDEACON Allison Koschak

VERGER Andrew Luke

READERS

Miriam Louise Gordon, William David Rohrs

LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Kathy Brock, Patrick Githens, Barbara Massey, Earl Roney

ACOLYTES

Hayes Carithers, *crucifer*, Anna Rohrs, Abigail Moore, Parker Birdsey, Wyatt Hobbs, Betsy Spalding

USHERS

Anna Riley Ferguson, Caleb Sacket Ferguson, James Colter Ferguson, Thomas Rutherford Ferguson, Jr.,  
Emilia Marinn Fortson, Jackson Collins Rice, Chip Tompkins, Beth Stanley, Jim Johnson, Carol Fisher,  
Bobby Chewning, Caroline Dale, Bill Gray, Michael Broome

GREETERS

Benita Miller, Mary Virginia Scott, Deborah Waters, Linda Leigh, Peter Fisher, Shelley Spalding,  
Geré Brown, Scott Finn



Every wedding takes a village. And holding a wedding like ours just weeks after Holy Week and Easter Day is a tall ask of any church's staff and ministry leaders. In addition to all the participants previously listed, many others have worked tirelessly behind the scenes and out of the spotlight in support of this holy day. Thank you to:

Fern Newsom and Anne Burnett of St. Stephen's altar guild for their grace and love with holy gifts of bread, wine, and vestments. To JoAnn Pulliam, Preston Lee, Karen Wise, and Colleen Hewitt of St. Stephen's flower guild for their gorgeous and celebratory handiwork. To JoAnne Palmore, Joan Putney, Darla Perry, Catherine Good, Mary Louise Martin, Nancy Cole, JoAnn Pulliam, Janet Stuhldreier, and Mary Ball of St. Stephen's wedding guild for their flexibility, care, and energy.

To Sarah Bartenstein and Dillon Gwaltney for assembling this colossal order of service—including many an edit—as well as their support of a beautiful livestream of today's celebration. To Brent Te Velde and Diana Chou who—in addition to their excellent musicianship—created all the musical scores found in this order of service. To Fred Staley for his operational support before his departure from the St. Stephen's staff in March. To Mary Feldman, Kitty Ball, and Susan McNamara, who supported many an administrative and coordinating task with grace and good humor. To Caroline Harris for her care of our acolytes who serve today. To the Rev. Abby Kocher for her presence of hospitality and welcome in our overflow space in Palmer Hall. And to baristas Thatch Rudolf and Isaac Dyer for their help serving at our reception.

We wish to give particular thanks to our dedicated team of sextons—Jack Hotchkiss, Wondell Kareem, Ian Hayes, Chris Holman, and Rashawn Dover—for their hard work, flexibility, and attention to detail.

With love and gratitude,  
The Wills

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