

The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage



Catherine Hodgson Anthony
and
Emery Eli Rivera

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Richmond, Virginia
Saturday, June 21, 2025
2:00 p.m.

The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage

To preserve a spirit of worship, please silence and put away all electronic devices as soon as you enter the church. No photographs or video are permitted.

The Liturgy of the Word

Prelude

Jerusalem

Thaxted

Abide with me

C.H.H. Parry

Gustav Holst, arr. Rebecca Groom te Velde

J.S. Bach

Hymn 657 Love divine, all loves excelling *Sung by all, standing as you are able.*

Hyfrydol



1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to earth come down,
2. Come, al - mighty 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.

The Collect

Officiant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **Blessed be God, now and for ever. Amen.**

Officiant Beloved, let us love one another,

People **For love is of God.**

Officiant Whoever does not love does not know God,

People **For God is love.**

Officiant Since God so loves us,

People **Let us love one another.**

The Officiant continues

Dearly beloved: We have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of this man and this woman in Holy Matrimony. The bond and covenant of marriage was established by God in creation, and our Lord Jesus Christ adorned this manner of life by his presence and first miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. It signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church, and Holy Scripture commends it to be honored among all people.

The union of husband and wife 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, to share in the care and faithful upbringing of children. 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 Catherine Hodgson Anthony and Emery Eli Rivera 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.

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.

Let us pray, then, that God will give them the strength to remain steadfast in what they vow this day. Let us also pray for the generosity to support them in the commitment they undertake and for the wisdom to see God at work in their life together.

The Collect

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray. *A period of silence is kept.*

God of abundance, assist by your grace Cate and Emery, whose covenant of love and fidelity we witness this day. Grant them your protection, that with firm resolve they may honor and keep the 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 1:8-9, 16-17 *Please sit.*

Reader A reading from the Book of Ruth.

Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, 'Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband.' But Ruth said,

'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!

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

A period of silence is kept.

For the Rev. Cate Anthony and Emery Rivera on the occasion of their wedding.



Sung by all, seated.

- 1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of | **Zion**, *
then were we like those who | **dream**.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with | **laughter**, *
and our tongue with shouts of | **joy**.
- 3 Then they said among the | **nations**, *
“The LORD has done great things for | **them**.”
- 4 The LORD has done great things for | **us**, *
and we are glad in- | **deed**.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O | **LORD**, *
like the watercourses of the | **Negev**.
- 6 Those who sowed with | **tears** *
will reap with songs of | **joy**.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the | **seed**, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their | **sheaves**.

The Second Reading Romans 12:1-2a, 4-5, 9-18

Remain seated.

Reader A reading from Paul’s Letter to the Romans.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

A period of silence is kept.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**



1. Come, thou fount of ev - ery bless - ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace!
 2. Here I find my great - est trea - sure; hith - er, by thy help, I've come;
 3. Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be!



Streams of mer - cy nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
 Let thy good - ness, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to thee:



'Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove.
 Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger wan - dering from the fold of God;
 prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;



Praise the mount! Oh, fix me on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love.
 he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
 here's my heart, oh, take and seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

The Gospel Luke 6:20-31 *Please remain standing and face the Gospel procession.*

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

Jesus looked up at his disciples and said:

"Blessed are you who are poor,
 for yours is the kingdom of God.

"Blessed are you who are hungry now,
 for you will be filled.

"Blessed are you who weep now,
 for you will laugh.

"Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets."

"But woe to you who are rich,
 for you have received your consolation.

"Woe to you who are full now,
 for you will be hungry.

"Woe to you who are laughing now,
 for you will mourn and weep.

"Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

A period of silence is kept.

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Homily Paris Ball

The Witnessing of the Vows and Blessing of the Covenant

Officiant Emery and Cate, you have come before God and the Church to exchange and renew solemn vows with one another and to ask God’s blessing.

Officiant Emery, do you freely and unreservedly offer yourself to Cate?

Answer I do.

Officiant Will you continue to live together in faithfulness and holiness of life as long as you both shall live?

Answer I will, with God’s help.

Officiant Cate, do you freely and unreservedly offer yourself to Emery?

Answer I do.

Officiant Will you continue to live together in faithfulness and holiness of life as long as you both shall live?

Answer I will, with God’s help.

Officiant Will all of you gathered to witness these vows do all in your power to uphold and honor this couple in the covenant they make?

People **We will.**

Officiant Will you pray for them, especially in times of trouble, and celebrate them in times of joy?

People **We will.**

Officiant Then let us pray for Emery and Cate in their life together and for the concerns of this community.

Silence is kept.

The Prayers *All stand or kneel, as able.*

Leader Eternal God, creator and preserver of all life, author of salvation, and giver of grace: Look with favor upon the world you have made, and for which your Son gave his life, and especially upon this man and this woman whom you make one flesh in Holy Matrimony.

People **Lord God, hear our prayer.**

Leader 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.

People **Lord God, hear our prayer.**

Leader 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.

People **Lord God, hear our prayer.**

Leader Give them grace, when they hurt each other, to recognize and acknowledge their fault, and to seek each other’s forgiveness, and yours.

People **Lord God, hear our prayer.**

Leader Make their life together a sign of Jesus' love to this broken world, that unity may overcome estrangement, forgiveness heal guilt, and joy conquer despair.

People **Lord God, hear our prayer.**

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

People **Lord God, hear our prayer.**

Leader Grant that all married persons who have witnessed these vows may find their lives strengthened and their loyalties confirmed.

People **Lord God, hear our prayer.**

Leader Grant that the bonds of our common humanity, by which all your children are united to one another, and the living to the dead, may be so transformed by your grace that your will may be done on earth as in heaven; where, O Father, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign in perfect unity, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Marriage *Please be seated.*

Officiant Emery and Cate, I invite you now, illumined by the Word of God and strengthened by the prayer of this community, to come forward and make your covenant before God and the Church.

Sung as the couple ascends, our hymn invites the Holy Spirit to come among us to bless all through this holy covenant. During the music, children are invited to gather at the base of the chancel steps.

Hymn 516 Come down, O love divine

Down Ampney

1. Come down, O Love di - vine, seek thou this soul of mine, and
 2. O let it free - ly burn, till earth - ly pas - sions turn to
 3. And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long, shall

vis - it it with thine own ar - der glow-ing; O Com-fort - er, draw near,
 dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum-ing; and let thy glo-rious light
 far out-pass the power of hu - man tell-ing; for none can guess its grace,

with - in my heart ap - pear, and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow-ing.
 shine ev - er on my sight, and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum-ing.
 till Love cre - ate a place where - in the Ho - ly Spi - rit makes a dwelling.

The Vows

The groom takes the bride's hands and, repeating after the Officiant, says,

In the name of God, I, Emery, take you, Cate, 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.

The bride takes the groom's hands and, repeating after the Officiant, says,

In the name of God, I, Cate, take you, Emery, 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 Blessing and Giving of Rings

Officiant Let us pray. *A period of silence is kept.*

Bless, O Lord, these rings to be signs of the vows by which Emery and Cate have bound themselves to each other, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The groom places the ring on the bride's finger and, repeating after the Officiant, says,

Cate, 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.

The bride places the ring on the groom's finger and, repeating after the Officiant, says,

Emery, 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.

The Pronouncement *Please stand.*

Officiant

Now that Emery and Cate have exchanged vows of love and fidelity in the presence of God and the Church, I pronounce that they are married and bound to one another as long as they both shall live. Those whom God has joined together, let no one put asunder. **Amen.**

The Blessing

Officiant Let us pray.

Most gracious God, we praise you for the tender mercy and unfailing care revealed to us in Jesus Christ and for the great joy and comfort bestowed upon us in the gift of human love. We give you thanks for Emery and Cate and the covenant of faithfulness they have made. Pour out the abundance of your Holy Spirit upon them. Keep them in your steadfast love; protect them from all danger; fill them with your wisdom and peace; lead them in holy service to each other and the world.

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit bless, preserve, and keep you and mercifully grant you rich and boundless grace, that you may please God in body and soul. God make you a sign of the loving-kindness and steadfast fidelity manifest in the life, death, and resurrection of our Savior, and bring you at last to the delight of the heavenly banquet, where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Peace

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.** *All are invited to share a sign of God's peace with one another.*

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Eucharist

Offertory Anthem Look at the World

Look at the world, everything all around us
Look at the world and marvel every day.
Look at the world, so many joys and wonders
So many miracles along our way.

Refrain

Praise to thee, O Lord for all creation;
Give us thankful hearts that we may see
All the gifts we share and every blessing.
All things come of thee.

John Rutter

Look at the earth, bringing forth fruit and flowers;
Look at the sky, the sunshine and the rain.
Look at the hills, look at the trees and mountains,
Valley and flowing river, field and plain. *Refrain*

Think of the spring, think of the warmth of summer
Bringing the harvest, before the winter's cold.
Everything grows, everything has a season
'Til it is gathered to the father's fold. *Refrain*

Every good gift, all that we need and cherish Comes from the Lord in token of his love.
We are his hands, stewards of all his bounty. His is the earth and his the heavens above. *Refrain*



The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Life up your hearts.

People We lift them up to the Lord.

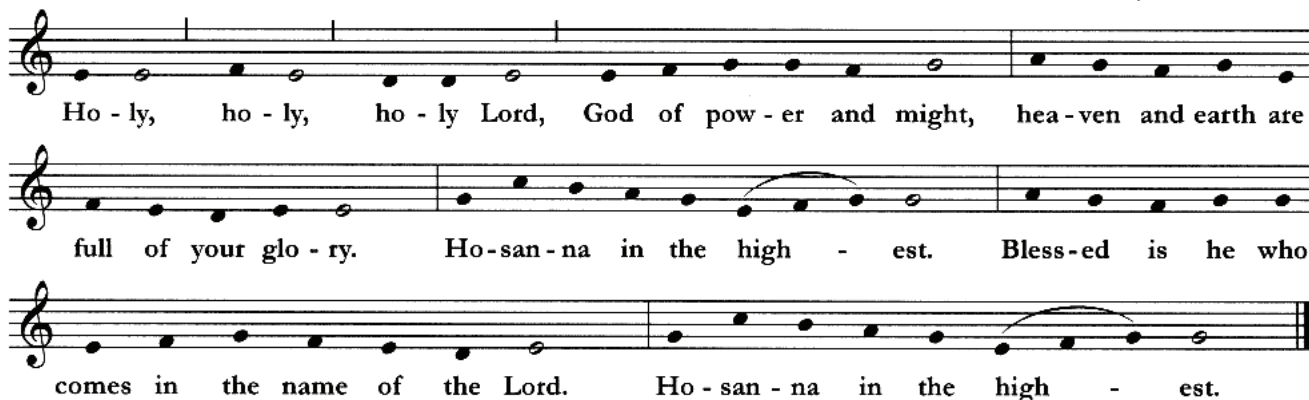
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Celebrant Lord of all life, you created the universe, where all living things reflect your glory.
You give us this great and beautiful earth to discover and to cherish. You give us happy times
and things to celebrate. In these we taste your kingdom, a feast for all your children.
You made us all, each wonderfully different, to join with the angels and sing your praise:

The Sanctus

Hymnal 1982 S-124



The Celebrant continues

We thank you, loving Father, because, when we turned away, you sent Jesus, your Son. He gave his life for us on the cross and shows us the way to live. Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with his disciples, saying: 'This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.' After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying: 'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins.' So Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life. As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit, and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Savior. Help us, Father, to love one another, as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended, and all creation is gathered in your loving arms. And now with all your saints we give you glory, through Jesus Christ, in the strength of the Spirit, today and for ever. **AMEN.**

Celebrant 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,

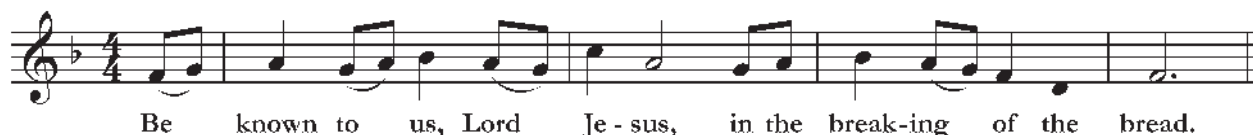
and the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread *Silence is kept.*

The cantor sings the antiphon, then all repeat. All sing the antiphon again after each verse.

Gary James



Cantor

1 The bread which we break, alleluia, is the communion of the body of Christ. (antiphon)

2 One body are we, alleluia, for though many we share one bread. (antiphon)

At the Communion of the People

All are welcome at the altar in this place. Communion is distributed at the chancel steps and in both of the side chapels (kneeling or standing). The altar extends to your pew if you need us to bring the sacrament to you; just 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 over your chest.

Music during Communion

The following hymns are sung by all, seated, and may be found in the Hymnal, the blue book in the pew rack.

Hymn 325 Let us break bread together

Let Us Break Bread

Hymn 341 For the bread which you have broken

Omni die

Hymn 416 For the beauty of the earth

Lucerna Laudoniae

Hymn 554 'Tis the gift to be simple

Simple Gifts

Prayer after Communion

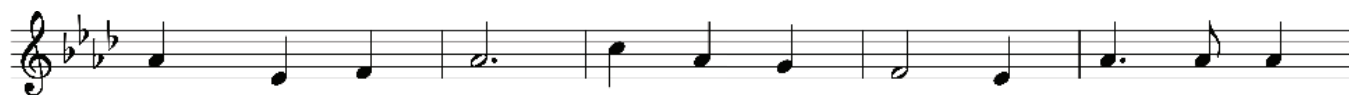
Celebrant Let us pray.

All God our strength and joy,
we thank you for the communion of our life together,
for the example of holy love that you give us in Emery and Cate,
and for the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.
Grant that it may renew our hope
and nourish us for the work you set before us
to witness to the presence of Christ in the world,
through the power of your Spirit, and to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Blessing

Hymn 412 Earth and all stars *Sung by all, standing as you are able.*

Earth and All Stars



| | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------|
| 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. Lin - 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 |



| | | |
|------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| Lord _____ | a new song! | O vic - to - ry, |
| Lord _____ | a new song! | Flow - ers and trees, |
| Lord _____ | a new song! | Harp, lute, and lyre, |
| Lord _____ | a new song! | Lime - stone and beams, |
| Lord _____ | a new song! | Ath - lete and band, |
| Lord _____ | a new song! | Daugh - ter and son, |



| | | | | |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| loud shout - ing | ar - my, | sing to the | Lord _____ | a new song! |
| loud rus - tling | dry leaves, | sing to the | Lord _____ | a new song! |
| loud hum - ming | cel - los, | sing to the | Lord _____ | a new song! |
| loud build - ing | work - ers, | sing to the | Lord _____ | a new song! |
| loud cheer - ing | peo - ple, | sing to the | Lord _____ | a new song! |
| loud pray - ing | mem - bers, | sing to the | Lord _____ | a new song! |



Refrain
He has done mar - - - vcl - ous things.



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

Dismissal

Postlude

Toccata, from Symphony no. 5

Charles-Marie Widor



All are invited to a festive picnic immediately following the service.



Celebrant: The Rev. Rebecca Ogus; **Officiant:** The Rev. John Rohrs; **Homilist:** Paris Ball
Readers: Sharon Machrone, the Rev. William Dickinson; **Intercessors:** Ivy and Scott Anthony
Acolytes: Abigail Moore, Wyatt Hobbs, Caroline Harris, Henry Mulholland
Oblation Bearers: Andy, Cate, Anna, and Julia Wright
Chalice Bearers: Charlie Caldwell, Scott Finn, Pat Githens, Anne Pinion
Eucharistic Minister: Barbara Massey; **Subdeacon:** Allison Koschak
Verger: Andrew Luke; **Musicians:** Diana Chou, Brent te Velde, St. Stephen's Choristers
The bread for today's Eucharist was prepared by the Very Rev. Andrew McGowan.



Dear friends,

It is our delight to share this day with you!

Our wedding is a celebration of the many layers of covenant we make today. Like Naomi and Ruth, we commit ourselves to one another wholeheartedly. We do so in community, seeking to embody the activity of communal life outlined in Paul's letter to the Romans. Finally, we make our covenant facing the world: our love inspires us to join in building the kingdom of God, where all are welcome at the table and no one ever goes away hungry. Through all this, we hope to invoke reverence and joy for the sacrament of marriage.

This wedding was only possible thanks to the support and care of many members of our community. We extend deep gratitude to:

The entire staff of St. Stephen's Church, and especially to our incredible facilities team: Jack Hotchkiss, Wondell Kareem, Ian Hayes, Chris Holman, and Rashawn Dover. To the clergy of St. Stephen's for their care and friendship as we prepared for this day. To Sarah Bartenstein for her help in crafting today's order of service and Dillon Gwaltney for his support in preparing the livestream. To our wonderful musicians: Brent te Velde, who composed a new musical setting of Psalm 126 for today's celebration; Diana Chou; the St. Stephen's choir; and the St. Stephen's choristers for their gift of a truly joyful—and holy—noise.

To the guilds of St. Stephen's Church: Fern Newsom, Anne Burnett, and the St. Stephen's Altar Guild for their care in preparing sacred space for our worship; Preston Lee, JoAnn Pulliam, Lynn McCashin, Elizabeth Johnson, Gail Waechter, Carol McCoy, and the Flower Guild for their festive decoration; Mary Ball, Darla Perry, Ara Hobbs, Synthia Waymack, Mary Louise Martin, Nancy Cole, JoAnn Pulliam, and Janet Stuhlreyer, our inimitable Wedding Guild.

We thank our moms, Deborah and Lynn, without whom the lives we knit together today would not have been possible. Finally, we thank y'all, you who celebrate us with generosity and joy. We love you.

In Christ,

Cate and Emery

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