

The Celebration and
Blessing of a Marriage

Jordan Kifer
&
Brandon Wong

Saturday, the twenty-third of May 2026
at four o'clock in the afternoon

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL ♦ SAN DIEGO ♦ CALIFORNIA

*Whoever you are, and wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith,
we welcome you and invite your full participation in today's worship.*

As a courtesy to others, please silence electronic devices and refrain from taking flash photographs during the ceremony.

This service is being recorded and if you don't wish to be seen on camera, please ask an usher for appropriate seating.

St. Paul's Cathedral acknowledges that we gather on unceded KumeYaay land. We value the knowledge, culture, and worldview of Indigenous people. We commit to the vital work of educating ourselves, increasing community awareness, and promoting reconciliation with our Indigenous neighbors. As we examine actions and practices that perpetuate harm against Indigenous communities, we pledge to work toward a meaningful and respectful relationship as we follow their example in honoring this sacred land.

- Approved by the Cathedral Chapter, May 2023

Organ Voluntaries

§ Please stand as you are able at the tolling of the bell.

Processional Hymn 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)

Following the hymn, the People sit and the Presider says

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, for the procreation 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 Jordan Kifer and Brandon Wong 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 Presider 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

The Presider says to the woman

Jordan, 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?

The Woman answers

I will.

The Presider says to the man

Brandon, 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?

The Man answers

I will.

The Presider 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 Presider says

Who presents this woman to be married to this man?

The bride's mother may respond.

Anthem

The Summons
John Bell (b.1949)

The Ministry of the Word

The Presider then says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O gracious and everliving God, in God's image we were all created: Look mercifully upon this man and this woman 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.

People **Amen.**

The First Reading

Ecclesiastes 4:9–12
read by Kevin Fries

The Reader says

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil.

For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help.

Again, if two lie together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone?

And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 139 *Domine, probasti* (said in unison by all)

1 **LORD, you have searched me out and known me; ***
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.

2 **You trace my journeys and my resting-places ***
and are acquainted with all my ways.

3 **Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, ***
but you, O LORD, know it altogether.

4 **You press upon me behind and before ***
and lay your hand upon me.

- 5 **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
 it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**
- 6 **Where can I go then from your Spirit? *
 where can I flee from your presence?**
- 7 **If I climb up to heaven, you are there; *
 if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.**
- 8 **If I take the wings of the morning *
 and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,**
- 9 **Even there your hand will lead me *
 and your right hand hold me fast.**

The Second Reading

Colossians 3:12-17
read by Evalyn Carter

The Reader says

A Reading from Letter of Paul to the Colossians.

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

§ *Please stand as able.*

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 22:35-40

The Deacon reads the Gospel, first saying

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

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

One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

§ *Please be seated at the introduction of the homily.*

The Homily

The Rev. Canon Richard Hogue, Jr.

Anthem

Ubi Caritas
The Taizé Community

The congregation remains seated. The couple stands before the priest.

The Man, facing the woman and taking her right hand in his, says

In the Name of God, I, Brandon, take you, Jordan, 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.

Then they loose their hands, and the Woman, still facing the man, takes his right hand in hers, and says

In the Name of God, I, Jordan, take you, Brandon, 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.

They loose their hands.

Presider

Bless, O Lord, these rings to be signs of the vows by which this man and this woman have bound themselves to each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

Jordan places a ring on Brandon's ring-finger and says

Brandon, 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 (*or in the Name of God*).

Brandon places a ring on Jordan's ring-finger and says

Jordan, 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 (*or in the Name of God*).

Then the Presider joins the right hands of husband and wife and says

Now that Jordan and Brandon 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 husband and wife, 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 stand as able for the Prayers.*

The Prayers

The Leader reads the following prayers, to which the People respond, saying, "Amen."

Deacon

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 man and this woman whom you make one flesh in Holy Matrimony.

People **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 husband and wife kneel before the Presider who then 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 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.

People **Amen.**

The Presider 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.

People **Amen.**

The Peace

The Presider says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving *Eucharistic Prayer A*

BCP 361

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

The Presider continues

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 love of wife and husband, you have given us an image of the heavenly Jerusalem, adorned as a bride for her bridegroom, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who loves her and gave himself for her, that he might make 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 (*Presider 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 Presider continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Presider and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Presider continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. ✠ Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with the blessed Virgin Mary, blessed Paul, and all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.

Presider and People **AMEN.**

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

The Lord's Prayer (*Presider 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 Fraction: The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence follows as the Bread is broken.

Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Invitation

This is the table, not of the church but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love him and 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 for a long time or ever before; you who have tried to follow and you who have failed; come, not because the Church invites you; it is Christ, and he invites you to meet him here.

- *The Iona Community Worship Book*

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

After the Invitation has been given, please be seated until you are ushered to the communion stations at the Crossing. Please take your purse or valuables with you.

At Communion time we will offer the Host with the option to have it partially intincted (dipped) by the Eucharistic Minister into the wine and placed in the communicant's hand. For the time being we will not offer the option of drinking from the Common Cup. You may choose to receive only the dry Host or to receive a blessing instead of the sacrament.

As you come forward, please use one of these three gestures to indicate your preference:

- ❖ To receive the host with wine, extend both your hands, palm up.*
- ❖ To receive only the host, extend one hand, palm up.*
- ❖ To receive a blessing, cross your hands at your shoulders*

If you need to receive a gluten-free wafer, please go to the station at the extreme left.

Hymn at the communion

One bread, one body
John Michael Talbot (b. 1954)

One bread, one body, one Lord of all
One cup of blessing which we bless
And we, though many, throughout the Earth
We are one body in this one Lord
Gentile or Jew
Servant or free
Woman or man
No more

One bread, one body, one Lord of all
One cup of blessing which we bless
And we, though many, throughout the Earth
We are one body in this one Lord
Many the gifts,
many the works
One in the Lord
Of all

One bread, one body, one Lord of all
One cup of blessing which we bless
And we, though many, throughout the Earth
We are one body in this one Lord
We are one body in this one Lord

The Lord Bless You and Keep You
John Rutter (b.1945)

The Lord bless you and keep you
The Lord make his face to shine upon you
To shine upon you and be gracious
And be gracious, unto you
The Lord lift up the light
Of his countenance upon you
The Lord lift up the light
Of his countenance upon you
And give you peace
Amen

§ *After a moment of silence following the distribution of communion, please stand as you are able for the following prayer.*

The Postcommunion Prayer

Presider Let us pray.

Presider 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, Jordan and Brandon,
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 Presider continues

Most gracious God,
we praise you for the tender mercy and unfailing care
revealed to us in Jesus the Christ,
and for the great joy and comfort bestowed upon us
in the gift of human love.

We give you thanks for Jordan and Brandon
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;
and lead them in holy service to each other and the world.

Grant them grace to remember that life is short,
and we have too little time to gladden the hearts
of those who travel the way with us.
Make them swift to love and ready in kindness,
that their life together may be a source of joy,
comfort, and blessing to all they meet.

And the blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with them now and always.
People **Amen.**

Presentation of the Married Couple

Recessional Hymn 379

1 God is Love, let heaven a - dore him; God is Love, let
2 God is Love; and Love en - folds us, all the world in
3 God is Love; and though with blind-ness sin af - flicts all

earth re - joice; let cre - a - tion sing be - fore him
one em - brace: with un - fail - ing grasp God holds us,
hu - man life, God's e - ter - nal lov - ing - kind - ness

and ex - alt him with one voice. God who laid the earth's foun -
ev - ery child of ev - ery race. And when hu - man hearts are
guides us through our earth - ly strife. Sin and death and hell shall

da - tion, God who spread the heaven a - bove, God who breathes through
 break - ing un - der sor - row's i - ron rod, then we find that
 nev - er o'er us fi - nal tri - umph gain; God is Love, so

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

Words: Timothy Rees (1874-1939), alt.

Music: *Abbot's Leigh*, Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907-1991)

The wedding party exits the church.

Wedding Party

Bride

Jordan Kifer

Groom

Brandon Wong

Parents of the Bride

Cathy Kifer (mother)

Michael Kifer (father)

(*Michael is unable to attend due to health issues)

Parents of the Groom

Carolina Wong (mother)

Dean Wong (father)

Bride's Attendant

Cecilia Taylor

Groomsman

Tony Wong

Ushers

Timothy Han

Christina Wong

Liturgical Ministers

Presider & Homilist: The Rev. Canon Richard Hogue, Jr.

Deacon: The Rev. Canon Brooks Mason

Verger: Todd Hurrell

Organist: Michael Lawrence

Choir Director: Seonjeong Park

Wedding Coordinator: Jonathan Widener

Audio-Visual: Ty Cayatineto, Mark Sanzi, Mike Thornburgh

In the unlikely event of an emergency requiring us to evacuate the cathedral please follow the directions of the ushers and vergers and remain as quiet and calm as possible.

Please locate an exit nearest you.

The exit doors are:

- ❖ South porch doors at Nutmeg Street and Fifth Avenue*
- ❖ North porch doors to Fifth Avenue Courtyard*
- ❖ South transept east and west doors to Nutmeg Street*
- ❖ Northeast hallway door to Fifth Avenue breezeway*
- ❖ West chapel (to the left of chapel altar) stairs leading down to landing.*



ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL
E P I S C O P A L