



Celebration of Marriage

Anu Rajasingham & Ben Flink

SEPTEMBER 28, 2019

3:30 PM

Church of the Epiphany

Washington DC

Anu Rajasingham

The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage

Prelude

Rigaudon; Andre Campra (1660-1744)

Arioso from Cantata No. 156
Johann Sebastian Bach (1650-1750)

Melodia da Chiesa from Violin Sonata No. 6
George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Bridal Procession *(all rise)*

Flower girls & Maid of Honor: Canon in D
Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

Entry of the Bride: Trumpet voluntary
Jeremiah Clarke (1670-1707)

Celebrant

Dearly beloved: We have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of Ben and Anu 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 Anu and Ben 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.

Celebrant addresses the persons to be married

Ben and Anu, 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

Ben, 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?

Answer I will.

Anu, 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 Celebrant 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.

Hymn (sung by all)

verse 2 to be sung in Tamil (Tamil script, Latin script phonetic transliteration and English translation provided)

Great is Thy Faithfulness

(Author: Thomas O. Chisholm 1866-1960;
Music: William M. Runyan 1870-1957)

1. Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be.

Refrain

Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2. வெயிலும் , பனியும் , விதைப்பறுப்பும ,
சூரிய சந்திர விண்மீன்களும் ,
படைப்பனைத்துடன் சாட்சி பகரும்
உம் பேருண்மை , இரக்கம் , அன்பிற்கே

[2. veyilum , panium , vithaipparuppum ,
sooriya santhira vinnmeenkalum ,
pataippanaiththudan saatchi pakarum
um paerunmai , irakkam , anpirkae]

[2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love]
Refrain

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
Refrain

The Ministry of the Word

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

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

Readings from Scripture.

Corinthians 13:1–10,13

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude.

It does not insist on its own way;
it is not irritable or resentful;

it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.

For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Romans 12: 9-16

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.

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.

Homily: The Reverend Sathi Clarke

Hymn (sung by all)

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

(Author: Henry Van Dyke 1852-1933; Music: Ludwig van Beethoven 1170-1827)

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day!

2. All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
call us to rejoice in thee.

3. Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.

4. Mortals, join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
love divine is reigning o'er us,
binding all within its span.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward,
in the triumph song of life.

The Marriage

Ben and Anu, in turn, takes the right hand of the other and says

In the Name of God, I, Ben, take you, Anu, 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.

In the Name of God, I, Anu, take you, Ben, 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 Celebrant asks God's blessing on the Thali, Koorai and rings:**

Bless, O Lord, this Thali and Koorai and these rings
to be signs of the vows by which Ben and Anu have
bound themselves to each other; through Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ben puts the thali on Anu and slips the ring on her ring finger and says

Anu, I give you this Thali and this ring as symbols 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.

Anu slips the ring on Ben's ring finger and says

Ben, 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 Celebrant joins the right hands of the couple and says

Now that Anu and Ben have given them-
selves to each other by solemn vows, with
the joining of hands and the giving and re-
ceiving of the thali and 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

All standing, the Celebrant says

Let us pray together in the words our Savior taught us.

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,
the power, and the glory.
For ever and ever.
Amen.

• Following Tamil custom, the Thali (necklace) is presented to the bride by the groom during the ceremony to symbolize the bond that the couple are entering into. The groom also gives the bride a sari called the Koorai. The bride changes into the Koorai for the reception.

Celebrant

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 Anu and Ben 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.

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.

The Blessing of the Marriage

The People remain standing. The couple kneel, and the Celebrant continues

Most gracious God, we give you thanks for your tender love in sending Jesus Christ to come among us, to be born of a human mother, and to make the way of the cross to be the way of life.

We thank you, also, for consecrating the union of two people in his Name. By the power of your Holy

Spirit, pour out the abundance of your blessing upon Ben and Anu. 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.

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.

Signing of the Register

Sonetto 47 del Petrarca by Franz Liszt (1811-1886)

Recessional Procession

Wedding March from A midsummer Night's Dream
Felix Mendelson (1809-1847)

Postlude

Allegro assai vivace from Organ Sonata No.1
Felix Mendelson

Pealing of the Church Bells

Participants in Today's Ceremony

Celebrant: Rev. Dr. Sathi Clarke

Sathi is Professor of Theology at the Wesley Seminary in Washington DC. He is Anu's godfather and has known her since she was born.

Organist: Dr. Jinsun Cho

Jinsun is a critically acclaimed organist and is the Director of Music at the Church of the Epiphany.

Readers:

**Michael Barfield
Amrita Rajasingham**

Pianist: Grace Lopez

Bestman: Tim Flink

Maid of Honor: Sintha Rajasingham

Flower Girls: Miss Indumathi Quinn,

Miss Kanmani Quinn & Miss Amirthini Quinn

Page Boy: Master Wyatt Wagley

Witnesses:

Jackie Guiser & Indi Rajasingham

Ushers:

Michael Barfield, Michael Oh,

Francesca Dervish & Arunan Rajasingham

Ben and Anu appreciate your presence and look forward to seeing you at the reception at the National Museum of Women in the Arts.

Before that you are invited to participate in a historical "Treasure Hunt" in loving memory of Anu's Appamma (paternal grandmother) who meticulously planned and executed elaborate treasure hunts for all her grandchildren.

The Treasure Hunt was organized by the mother of the bride, and the Map as well as the covers of this booklet (depicting flowers from Minnesota, Georgia and Australia) are watercolor paintings by her.

