

THE BLESSING OF A  
LIFELONG RELATIONSHIP

*Elizabeth Masterson*

&

*Charles Cloughen*



JUNE 28, 2020 – 9AM

CATHEDRAL OF THE INCARNATION  
THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MARYLAND

# GATHERING

**Prelude**

*Poco Tranquillo* from "Marriage at Trolldhaugen"

Edvard Grieg

Ken Brown, piano

*Please stand as you are able.*

**Hymn 8**

*Morning has broken*

Bunessan

*Unison or harmony*



1 Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing,  
 2 Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from hea - ven,  
 3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing

black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird.  
 like the first dew - fall on the first grass.  
 born of the one light E - den saw play!

Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!  
 Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,  
 Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ery morn - ing,

Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!  
 sprung in com - plete - ness where his feet pass.  
 God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

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## Acclamation

The Right Reverend Eugene Taylor Sutton

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

**Glory to God for ever and ever.**

Beloved, let us love one another,

**For love is of God.**

Whoever does not love does not know God,

**For God is love.**

Since God so loves us,

**Let us love one another.**

## The Address

Dear friends in Christ, in the name of God and the Church we have come together today with Elizabeth Masterson and Charles Cloughen to witness the commitment they make to one another. Forsaking all others, they will bind themselves to one another with promises of mutual fidelity and steadfast love, remaining true to one another in heart, body, and mind, as long as they both shall live.

Such a lifelong commitment is not to be entered into lightly or thoughtlessly, but responsibly and with reverence. Let us pray, then, that God will give them the strength to remain steadfast in what they promise 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

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

God of abundance: assist by your grace Elizabeth and Charles, whose commitment to love and fidelity we witness this day. Grant them your protection, that with firm resolve they may honor and keep the promises 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.*

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 121**

*Prayed in unison*

**I lift up my eyes to the hills;  
from where is my help to come?**

**My help comes from the Lord,  
the maker of heaven and earth.**

**He will not let your foot be moved  
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.**

**Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel  
shall neither slumber nor sleep;**

**The Lord himself watches over you;  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,**

**So that the sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.**

**The Lord shall preserve you from all evil;  
it is he who shall keep you safe.**

**The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in,  
from this time forth for evermore.**

## **Anthem**

*He is the way*  
Ben Musachio, tenor

Hall

He is the Way.  
Follow Him through the Land of Unlikeness;  
You will see rare beasts, and have unique adventures.

He is the Truth.  
Seek Him in the Kingdom of Anxiety;  
You will come to a great city that has expected your return for years.

He is the Life.  
Love Him in the World of the Flesh;  
And at your marriage all its occasions shall dance for joy.  
*--W.H. Auden*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## **The Gospel**

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

15:9-17

**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.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*The people are seated at the invitation of the homilist.*

## **The Homily**

*A time of silence is observed following the sermon.*

## The Witnessing of Promises and the Blessing of the Relationship

Who presents Elizabeth and Charles, as they seek the blessing of God and the Church on their love and life together?

*Presenters* We do.

Will you love, respect, and pray for Elizabeth and Charles, and do all in your power to stand with them in the life they will share?

*Presenters* We will.

Will all of you gathered to witness these promises do all in your power to uphold and honor this couple in their commitment to each other?

*People* We will.

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

*People* We will.

Elizabeth and Charles, I invite you now, illumined by the Word of God and strengthened by the prayer of this community, to make your promises before God and the Church.

*Charles and Elizabeth, in turn, take the right hand of the other and say*

In the name of God, I, *Charles/Elizabeth* give myself to you, *Elizabeth/Charles*.

I will support and care for you by the grace of God: in times of sickness, in times of health.

I will hold and cherish you in the love of Christ: in times of plenty, in times of want.

I will honor and keep you with the Spirit's help: in times of anguish, in times of joy, forsaking all others, as long as we both shall live. This is my solemn promise.

## Blessing of Rings

Bless, O Lord, these rings to be a sign of the vows by which Elizabeth and Charles have bound themselves to each other; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

*Charles and Elizabeth, in turn, place the rings on each other's hands saying*

*Elizabeth/Charles*, I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, I honor you, in the Name of the Holy and Undivided Trinity, One God.

## The Prayers

Let us pray for Elizabeth and Charles in their life together and for the concerns of this community.

*Prayer Leader*

For Elizabeth and Charles, seeking your blessing and the blessing of your holy people; Loving God, **Receive our prayer.**

For a spirit of loving-kindness to shelter them all their days; Loving God, **Receive our prayer.**

For friends to support them and communities to enfold them; Loving God, **Receive our prayer.**

For peace in their home and love in their family; Loving God, **Receive our prayer.**

For the honesty to acknowledge when they hurt each other, and the humility to seek each other's forgiveness and yours; Loving God, **Receive our prayer.**

For the outpouring of your love through their work and witness; Loving God, **Receive our prayer.**

For all who have been reborn and made new in the waters of Baptism; Loving God, **Receive our prayer.**

For those who lead and serve in communities of faith; Loving God, **Receive our prayer.**

For those who seek justice, peace, and concord among nations; Loving God, **Receive our prayer.**

For those who are sick or suffering, homeless or poor; Loving God, **Receive our prayer.**

For victims of violence and those who inflict it; Loving God, **Receive our prayer.**

For communion with all who have died, especially those whom we remember this day.

*A period of silence is held.*

Loving God, **Receive our prayer.**

*Presider*

Giver of every gift, source of all goodness, hear the prayers we bring before you for Elizabeth and Charles, who seek your blessing this day. Strengthen them as they share in the saving work of Jesus, and bring about for them and for all you have created the fullness of life he promised, who now lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

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

**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.**

## Blessing of the Couple

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 Elizabeth and Charles, and the promise of faithfulness they have made to each other.

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 holy and undivided Trinity, 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

The peace of Christ be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

## Blessing & Dismissal

**Postlude**

*Tempo di Marcia from "Marriage at Trolldhaugen"*

Grieg

## PARTICIPATING IN THE SERVICE

**PRESIDER & PREACHER:** The Right Reverend Eugene Taylor Sutton, *Bishop of Maryland*

**DEACON:** The Venerable Ruth Elder, Archdeacon for Formation

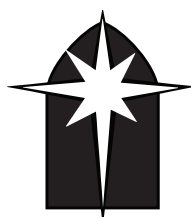
**PRESENTERS:** The Very Rev. Rob Boulter, Thomas Devaney

**READER:** Betsy Huttar

**PRAYER LEADER:** Marie Naka

**PIANIST:** Ken Brown

**CANTOR:** Ben Musachio



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