The Celebration and
Blessing of a
Marriage Between

Caroline Cervone Rubin

And

Arthur Tatnell
McVitty

June 2nd, 2001
St. Matthew Episcopal Church
Maple Glen, Pennsylvania
Wedding Participants

Maid of Honor
Kate Smith

Best Persons
Sheryl M. Delozier
Heather M. Riccardo

Presenters
Jeffery Bolognese
Robert Bolognese
Michael Bolognese

It has been requested that no photographs be taken during the wedding ceremony. Thank you.
The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage

The Celebrant addresses the Congregation and says:

Dearly beloved: We have come together in the presence or God to witness and bless the joining together or this man and this woman in Holy Matrimony. The bond and covenant or 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 or 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 man and woman In heart, body and mind is intended for their mutual comfort, help, and joy. that they may know each other with delight and tenderness in acts of love throughout times of prosperity as well as times of adversity. 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 the holy union Caroline Rubin and Arthur McVitty now come to be joined. If any of you can show just cause why they may not lawfully be married, speak now or else forever hold your peace.

Then the Celebrant 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 Celebrant:

Caroline, 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?

Arthur, 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 Celebrant to the Congregation:

Will all of you witnessing these promises do all in your power to uphold these two persons in their marriage?

The People answer: We Will.

The Ministry of the Word

The Celebrant to the People: The Lord be with you
The People: And also with you

The Celebrant:

Let us pray. O gracious and everliving God. you
have created us male and female in your Image. 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, forever and ever. Amen

The People are seated

First Lesson  
Song of Solomon 2:10-13; 8:6-7

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 a 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.

The Reader: The Word of the Lord.  
The People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 67  
The Reader (*) and the People
May God be merciful to us and bless us,*
   show us the light of his countenance and come to us.
Let your ways be known upon earth,*
   your saving health among all nations.
Let the peoples praise you, O God;*
   let all the peoples praise you.
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,*
   for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations upon earth.
Let the peoples praise you, O God;*
   let all the peoples praise you.
The earth has brought forth her increase;*
   may God, our own God, give us his blessing.
May God give us his blessing,*
   and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

Second Lesson  Colossians 3: 12-11

   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 Reader:_ The Word of the Lord  
_The People:_ Thanks be to God.

_All Stand_

_The Gospel_  
_Luke 11: 5-13_

_The Celebrant:_ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

_The People:_ Glory to you, Lord Christ.

_The Celebrant:_

And he said, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loves or bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ I tell you even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever be needs.

"So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone
among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

*The Celebrant:* The Gospel of the Lord  
*The People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ

**The Homily**  
Beth W. Hixon

**The Marriage**

**Arthur:**  
In the Name of God, I, **Arthur**, take you, **Caroline**, 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.

**Caroline:**  
In the Name of God, I, **Caroline**, take you, **Arthur**, 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.

**Blessing of the Rings**

*The Priest asks God's blessing on the rings.*

Bless, O Lord, these rings to be a sign of the vow
by which this man and this woman have bound themselves to each other: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Couple:

Arthur:
Caroline, 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.

Caroline:
Arthur, 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:

Now that Caroline and Arthur 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.

The People: Amen

The Prayers

All Standing
The 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 Caroline and Arthur 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.

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. 

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. 

The Blessing of the Marriage

The People remain standing - Husband and Wife kneel

The Celebrant:

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 forever in your heavenly home; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, forever 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.*

**The Peace**

*The Celebrant:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.
*The People:* And also with you.

**The Congregation exchanges greetings of peace.**

**All remain standing**

*The Celebrant:* Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

**The Holy Communion**

The newly married couple presents the offerings of bread and wine.

*The People are seated*

**Solo**

*The People stand*
The Great Thanksgiving

*The Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.  
*The People:* And also with you.  
*The Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.  
*The People:* We lift them up to the Lord.  
*The Celebrant:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*The People:* It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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*The Celebrant 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 forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*The Celebrant and the 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 Celebrant 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:

_The Celebrant and the People:_

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.
The Celebrant 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 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 forever. Amen.

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

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed by the 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 Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

The **Celebrant:** Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*The People:* Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia

**The Celebrant:**

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*The Ministers receive the Sacrament.* All baptized Christians are invited to partake in the Holy Communion.

*After Communion the Celebrant says:* Let us pray

*The Celebrant and the 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. **Caroline and Arthur,** 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.

Recessional
Service Participants

Celebrant
The Rev. Beth Wunderlich Hixon

Crucifer and Candle Bearers

Readers
Donald W. McVitty

Musicians

Programs
Cynthia P. Bolognese