

*THE CELEBRATION AND BLESSING
OF
THE COVENANT
OF*

D _____
and
T _____

*SATURDAY, JUNE __, 19__
FOUR THIRTY IN THE AFTERNOON*

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA**

"Love is something you and I must have. We must have it because our spirit feeds upon it. We must have it because without it we become weak and faint. Without love our self-esteem weakens. Without it our courage fails. Without love we can no longer look out confidently at the world....With it we are creative. With it we march tirelessly. With it, we are able to sacrifice for others."

Chief Dan George

Participants in the SERVICE :

Clergy: The Rev. J. Edwin Bacon, Jr., *Rector*
 The Rev. Gary Bradley, *Pastoral care*
 The Rev. Timothy Safford, *Mission and Parish Life*

Organist: James Walker, *Director of Music*

Soloist: JC

Honor Attendants: RC

JO

Ushers:

JB
RC
PJ
DZ

Prayer Readers:

NM
CM

Oblations:

MPG

PRAYER OF MEDITATION

Help us, O God, to be masters of ourselves
that we may become the servants of others.
Take our minds and think through them;
take our lips and speak through them.
Take our hearts and set them on fire, for Christ's sake.
Amen.

---Words: George Regas' Sermon Prayer
after W.H.H. Aitken and other sources

Voluntary

Played by James Walker:

Selections by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)

Processional

The Congregation stands.

The Emperor's Fanfare

---Antonio Soler (1729 - 1783)

Welcome and Introduction

The Congregation remains standing.

The Rev. J. Edwin Bacon, Jr.

Priest: Beloved people of God: We have come together in the presence of
God to witness and bless the covenant of love and fidelity which D and T have made with each
other.

The union of two persons 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 that their love may be a
blessing to all whom they encounter.

This solemn covenant is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently,
deliberately, and with the commitment to seek God's will for their lives.

**People: D and T, we rejoice with you; we are glad to share with you in the
celebration of your blessing, to witness your vows, to pray with you and to wish you joy
in your life together. For our part, we ask you to make your public declaration.**

D: I love T, and want to spend the rest of my life in union with him.

T: I love D, and want to spend the rest of my life in union with him.

The Declaration of Consent

Remain standing.

Priest: D, you come to affirm your covenant of love and fidelity with T,
and your intention to live together in a committed relationship. 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?

D: I will.

Priest: T, you come to affirm your covenant of love and fidelity with D, and your intention to live together in a committed relationship. 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?

T: I will.

The priest then joins the couple's hands and asks the whole congregation:

Priest: You, as family and friends, have come to witness this exchange of vows. Will you do all in your power to support this relationship now and in the years ahead.

People: We will.

The Ministry of the Word *Remain Standing.*

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Let us pray.

O gracious and everliving God, you have created us in your image: Look mercifully upon these men 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.

Everyone: Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON *The Congregation is seated.*

RC

A Reading from I Corinthians (13:4-14)

Love is patient and kind. Love envies no one, is never boastful, never conceited, never rude; love is never selfish, never quick to take offense. Love keeps no score of wrongs, takes no pleasure in the sins of others, but delights in the truth. There is nothing love cannot face; there is no limit to its faith, its hope, its endurance. Love will never come to an end. Prophecies will cease; tongues of ecstasy will fall silent; knowledge will vanish. For our knowledge and our prophecy alike are partial, and the partial vanishes when wholeness comes.

There are three things that last forever; faith, hope and love; and the greatest of the three is love.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SOLO
Sung by JC

Remain Seated.

The Gift of Love

Though I may speak with bravest fire
and have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love; My words are vain
as sounding brass and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
But not be giv'n by love within,
the profits soon turn strangely thin.

Come, spirit, come, our hearts control
Our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide ev'ry deed,
by this we worship and are freed. Amen.

---American Folk Tune,
Arr. By Hal Hopson based on I Corinthian 13

THE SECOND LESSON JO

Remain seated.

A Reading from Spiritual Friendship, 2:11 (Aelred of Rievaulx, 1110 - 1167)

One is entirely alone without a friend. But what happiness, what security, what joy to have someone to whom you dare to speak on terms of equality as to another self; one to whom you need have no fear to confess all of your failings; one to whom you can unblushingly make known what progress you have made in the spiritual life; one to whom you can entrust all the secrets of your heart and before whom you can place all your plans. What, therefore, is more pleasant than so to unite to oneself the spirit of another and of two to form one, that no boasting is thereafter to be feared, no suspicion to be dreaded, no correction of one by the other to cause pain, no praise on the part of one to bring a charge of adulation from the other.

HYMN 376 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” *Standing; everyone sings.*

Words: Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933), alt; verse 4 amended
by the Rev. Noble Owings, 1986
Music: Hymn to Joy, Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827);
adapt. Edward Hodges (1796-1867), alt.

THE GOSPEL *Remain standing.* The Rev. Timothy Safford

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John (15: 9 - 12).

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Priest: As God has loved me, so I have loved you. Dwell in my love. If you heed my commands, you will dwell in my love, as I have heeded God's commands and dwell in God's love. I have spoken thus to you, so that my joy may be in you, and your joy complete. This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

HOMILY *The Congregation is seated.* The Rev. Gary Bradley

The Covenant *The Congregation stands.*
The Rev. J. Edwin Bacon, Jr.

D: In the Name of God, I, D, take you T, 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.

T: In the Name of God, I, T, take you D, 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 *Remain standing.*

Priest: Bless O Lord, these rings to be signs of the vows by which these two men have bound themselves to each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

D: T, 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 God.

May my heart be your shelter, and my arms your home. May you feel deeply loved, for indeed you are. May you always see your wholeness in my eyes. With this ring, I give you my heart. I have no greater gift to give. May we feel this joy for as long as we live. I thank God. I thank you. Amen.

T: D, 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 God.

May my heart be your shelter, and my arms your home. May you feel deeply loved, for indeed you are. May you always see your wholeness in my eyes. With this ring, I give you my heart. I have no greater gift to give. May we feel this joy for as long as we live. I thank God. I thank you. Amen.

Priest: Now that D and T have given themselves to each other by solemn vows, with the joining of hands and the giving and receiving of rings, I proclaim that they are united to one another in a holy covenant in the Name of God --- Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

People: Amen.

The Prayers of the People *Remain standing.*
NCM

Minister: Loving Spirit, grant to D and T, that in loving and forgiving, they may receive from each other lasting joy.

People: Bind them together with cords that cannot be broken. Bind them together in love.

Minister: Grant that they may always take delight in each other, and each remain the other's heart's desire.

People: Bind them together with cords that cannot be broken. Bind them

together in love.

Minister: May they reach such trust and confidence in each other as shall keep them from unnecessary distress. May they find courage to meet the heartaches, disappointments and agonies life can bring.

People: Be their rock, their fortress, for they put their trust in you.

Minister: Help them look beyond their own family and their own concerns to see the world, suffering and struggling, the world you have given us to share with each other.

People: Open their eyes and their hearts.

Minister: Give them grace to accept that they are mortal, to face the possibility of death and the separation it must bring.

People: Jesus, you are resurrection, you are life.

Minister and People:

God of peace, your love is generous, and reaches out to hold us all in your embrace. Fill our hearts with tenderness for those to whom we are linked today. Give us sympathy with each other's trials; give us patience with each other's faults; that we may grow in the likeness of Jesus and share in the joy of your kingdom. Amen.

The Blessing of the Covenant

Remain Standing.

(Ushers will direct Congregation to join each other and lay hands on the couple for the Blessing)

Priest: 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.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, pour out the abundance of your blessing upon these men.

Defend them from every enemy. Lead them into 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 stable 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, for ever and ever.

People: Amen.

The Peace

Remain Standing.

Priest: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Greetings

The Congregation is seated.

Offertory SOLO
Sung by JC

Remain seated.

The Call

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
such a way as gives us breath;
Such a truth as ends all strife;
such a life as killeth death.

Come my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
such a light as shows a feast;
Such a feast as mends in length;
Such a strength as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
such a joy as none can move;
Such a love as none can part;
such a heart as joys in love.

---Words: George Herbert (1593 - 1633)
Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 - 1958)

The Holy Eucharist *The Congregation stands.*
The Rev. Timothy Safford

The Oblations will be presented by MPG

Priest: God of all creation, you bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. By your Holy Spirit this bread and wine will be for us.

People: All you have made is good. Your love endures forever.

The Great Thanksgiving *Remain standing.*

Priest: God dwells in you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Come to the table with thankful hearts.

People: We open our hearts to God and to one another.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Priest: Creative God, source of all life and ground of our being, you are the vibrant energy dancing at the center of the universe! Through us you move, and through us you are made known to the world. Co-creators with you, we are emboldened to move beyond ourselves, to find the courage to let go of old ways and welcome new life.

And so, in concert with those of every generation who have been touched by your redeeming love, we lift our praise to you:

Santus/Benedictus *Everyone sings.*

---Setting: Jonathan A. Tuuk © 1978 - GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago

All rights reserved.

The Consecration

Remain Standing.

Priest: From the beginning we did not trust you when you called us “good.” In our arrogance, we placed ourselves outside your garden of love. Separate from you, vulnerable and unprotected, we feared one another and our diversity. Ashamed of our humanity, and afraid of being ourselves, we distrusted your Word of love and forgiveness. But you did not abandon us to your isolation and despair. You sent your servant Jesus, baptized him with your Spirit, and infused him with your love and confidence. Healing, teaching, and sharing table with all manner of individuals, Jesus proclaimed your love for all humanity and called us forth to be ourselves.

On the night before his death, Jesus gathered his friends around him for a meal. After supper he took bread, gave thanks to you, and shared it with them, saying, “This is my body, the bread of new life. Eat it in remembrance of me.” Taking the cup of wine, he blessed it and shared it with them, saying, “This is my blood, the cup of new life. Drink it in remembrance of me.”

And so, remembering the cross, the tomb, and the resurrection, we acclaim you, O Christ:

**Priest and People: Dying, you destroyed our death.
Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Priest: Fill us and these gifts of bread and wine with your Spirit, that we, receiving the body and blood of your Christ, may burn with the power of your Spirit to be a people of hope, justice, inclusion, and love. We ask this in the name of the risen Christ. Amen.

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

**Priest 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 forever and ever.
Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept, during which the Priest breaks the consecrated bread.

Priest: We are one bread, one body.

People: We will love one another as Christ loves us.

The Invitation

Priest: The gifts of God for the people of God.

Administration of the Holy Communion

All persons -- whether Episcopalians or not -- are welcome to participate in the Sacrament. If you seek a greater and stronger spiritual life and a more humane society, we urge you to come to the altar.

The ushers will assist people to the appropriate place for communion.

Please take hold of the chalice firmly and guide it to your lips, or dip the wafer in the small chalice of wine, or simply touch the chalice.

Please respond to the reception of bread and wine by saying, "Amen."

During Communion: *The Congregation sits.*

SOLO

Sung by JC

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

It made our wounded spirits whole,
and calmed our troubled minds.
It's living food for many a soul,
that weary ones may find.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my Shield and Portion be,
as long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
It's grace that brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright, shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

Word: John Newton (1725 - 1807), alt.;
st. 5, John Rees (19th Cent.)

Music: *New Britain*, from *Virginia Harmony*, 1831;
adapt. Att. Edwin Othello Excell (1851 - 1921)

Hymn **"The Blue Green Hills of Earth"** *Everyone sings.*

---Words and Music: Kim Oler © 1982, Helium Music (BMI)

Hymn **"Peace On Earth"** *JC sings verses, Everyone sings refrain.*

---Words: Allison Hubbard; Music: Kim Oler

Prayer of Thanksgiving
The Rev. Gary Bradley

The Congregation stands.

Priest: 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, D and T, now joined in a holy covenant, 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 Blessing

Priest: God who created us, Jesus who redeemed us, and the Holy Spirit who sustains us, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully look with favor 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 Recessional

James Walker plays:

Tocatta in F Major, BWV 540

----Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)

Reception follows immediately