

THE CELEBRATION AND BLESSING

of the

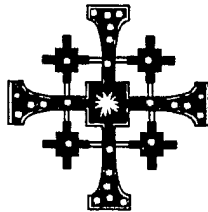
COVENANT

of

Amy Elizabeth G.

and

Suzanne S. S.



Saturday, September 27, 1997

Four o'clock in the afternoon

All Saints Episcopal Church

Pasadena, California

VOLUNTARY

-J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Aria and Variations (*Goldberg Variations*), BV~TV 988

MEDITATION

God be in my head and in my understanding.
God be in mine eyes and in my looking.
God be in my mouth and in my speaking
God be in my heart and in my thinking.
God be at mine end and in my departing.

-From the Sarum Primer, 1545

PROCESSIONAL

Song Tune "Fairest Isle" (*King Arthur*)

-Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

Everyone stands for the entrance of the couple.

Rinaldo

--G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

THE PROCLAMATION *Remain Standing.*

Ed Bacon

Beloved people of God: We have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the covenant of love and fidelity which Suzanne and Amy 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, when it is God's will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord; 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.

THE DECLARATION OF CONSENT

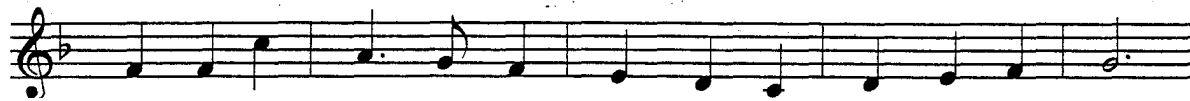
Priest: Suzanne, do you affirm your covenant with Amy and your intention to live with her in a committed relationship? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

Suzanne: I will.

Priest: Amy, do you affirm your covenant with Suzanne and your intention to live with her in a committed relationship? 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?

Amy: I will.

HYMN "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation" *Remain standing, everyone sings.*



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King . of cre a -
 2 Praise to the Lord; o - ver all things he glo - rious - ly reign -
 3 Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy way and de fend
 4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a dore



tion, O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and sal -
 eth: borne as on ea - gle - wings, safe - ly his saints he sus -
 thee; sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall 'ev - er at -
 him! All that hath life and breath come now with prais - es be -



va tion: join the great throng, psal - ter - y, or - gan, and
 tain eth. Hast thou not seen how all thou need - est hath
 tend thee; pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can
 fore him! Let the a - men sound from his peo ple a -



song, sound - ing in glad ad - o ra tion.
 been grant - ed in what he or dain eth?
 do, who with his love doth be friend thee.
 gain-, glad - ly for ev - er a dore him.

-Words: Joachim Neander (1650-1680); tr. *Hymnal 1940, alt.*

Music: Lobe den Herren, melody from Erneuertem Gesangbuch, 1665

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

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 this couple 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.*

THE LESSON Ruth (1:16-17) *Seated.*

. William G., V

THE PSALM 139:1-5

0 Lord, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you
discern my thoughts from-far away.
You search out my path and my lying down, and
are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue, 0
Lord, you know it completely.
You hem me in, behind and before, and
lay your hand upon me.

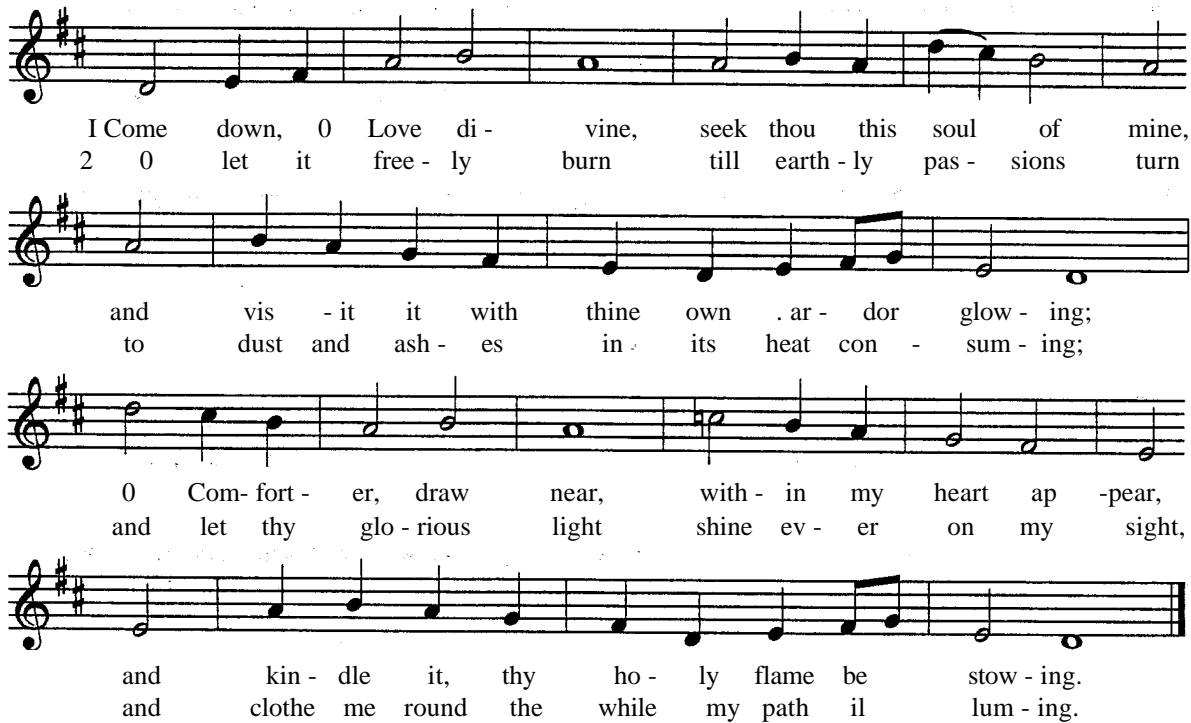
Sung by the Choir.

-Setting: George S. Talbot (1875-1918)

THE EPISTLE 1 Corinthians (13:1-13)

Andrew Hamilton

HYMN "Come down, 0 Love Divine" Standing, *everyone sings vs. 1 & 2*



I Come down, 0 Love di - vine, seek thou this soul of mine,
2 0 let it free - ly burn till earth - ly pas - sions turn
and vis - it it with thine own . ar - dor glow - ing;
to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;
0 Com - fort - er, draw near, with - in my heart ap - pear,
and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,
and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be stow - ing.
and clothe me round the while my path il lum - ing.

THE GOSPEL *Remain standing.*

Margaret Cunningham

Priest: The Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew (5:3-9, 14-16).

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Priest: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called. children of God.

You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.

Priest: The Gospel of the Savior.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

HYMN "Come down, O love Divine" *Remain standing; everyone sings vs. 3 & 4.*

3 Let ho - ly char - i - ty my out - ward ves - ture be,
4 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,
and low - li - ness be - come my in - ner cloth ing:
shall far out - pass the power of hu - man tell ing;
True low - li - ness of heart, which takes the hum - bler part,
for none can guess its grace, till Love cre - ate a place
And o'er its, own short - corn - ings weeps with loath - ing,
where - in the Ho - ly Spi - rit makes a dwell - ing.

-Words: *Discendi, Amor santo*, Bianco da Siena, d. 1434, R. F. Littledale
Music: *Down Ampney*; R. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

THE HOMILY *Seated.*

Margaret Cunningham

THE COVENANT *Standing.*

Ed Bacon

Suzanne: In the Name of God, I, Suzanne S., take you Amy Elizabeth, 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.

Amy: In the Name of God, I, Amy Elizabeth, take you Suzanne S., 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.

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

Suzanne: Amy, 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.

Amy: Suzanne, 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.

Priest: Now that Suzanne and Amy 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 re-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. Amen.

The congregation may kneel or sit for the prayers.

"May No Rash Intruder"

May no rash intruder disturb their soft hours; To form
 fragrant pillows, arise, oh ye flow'rs! Ye zephyrs,
 soft-breathing, their slumbers prolong, While nightingales
 lull them to sleep with their song.

-Music: G. F. Handel (1685-1759), from the oratorio Solomon

THE PRAYERS

Bill Doulos

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 Jesus gave his life, and especially upon these two people whose covenant you bless. *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 so be 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 lives. *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 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 God, with your son and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign in perfect unity, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE BLESSING OF THE COVENANT *Standing.*

Ed Bacon

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 your Holy Spirit, pour out the abundance of your blessing upon these persons.

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.*

THE PEACE

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

People: And also with you.

GREETINGS

Ed Bacon

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY

Played by the chamber orchestra.

String Quartet in A minor, D 804
Andante

-Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Standing.*

Margaret Cunningham

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People: It is meet and right so to do. It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, al-mighty, everlasting God.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

SANCTUS. *Everyone kneels. Sung by the Choir*

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.

-Setting: Franz Schubert (1797-1828), from *Deutsche Messe* (German Mass), 1827

Priest: All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. *Amen.*

Priest and People:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Priest: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

THE INVITATION

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

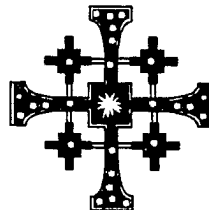
DURING COMMUNION

AGNUS DEI

Sung by the Choir.

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us. Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace.

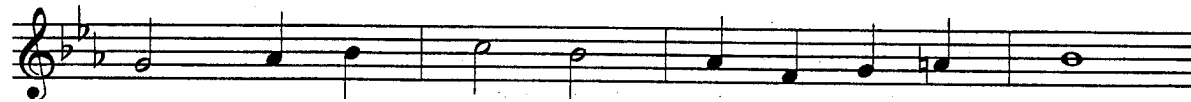
-Setting: Franz Schubert (1797-1828), from *Deutsche Messe* (German Mass), 1827



HYMN "Abide With Me; Fast Falls the Eventide," *Seated, everyone sings vs. 1-3.*



1 A - bide with me: fast falls the e ven - tide;
 2 I need thy pre - sence e - v'ry pass ing hour;
 3 I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;



The dark - ness dee - pens; Lord, with me a bide:
 What but thy grace can foil the temp - ter's power?
 Ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter ness.



When o - ther hel - pers fail and com - forts flee,
 Who, like thy - self, my guide and stay can be?
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?



Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, Lord, a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still, if Thou, a - bide with me.

-Words: Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)

Music: *Eventide*, W. H. Monk (1823-1889)

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *Standing.*

Margaret Cunningham

Priest 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, Suzanne and Amy 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 the Creator, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, 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. *Amen.*

RECESSIONAL

Sung by the Choir.

"Swell, the Full Chorus"

Swell the full chorus to sound the Lord's praise, For God is our King and the Sun of our days. Flow sweetly the numbers that dwell on-His Name, and rouse the whole nation in songs to His Fame.

-Music G. F. Handel (1685-1759), from the oratorio Solomon

The congregation will please sit after the couple and their families leave the church.

Suzanne and Amy and their attendants and families will gather outside the church for photographs immediately after the ceremony. Everyone is encouraged to remain seated for the voluntary, offered by Amy and Suzanne in thanksgiving for this service and for the life of GMS, Jr. (1924-1996).

VOLUNTARY

Fanfare

Prelude in C major ("9/8"), BWV 547

Prayer of St. Gregory, Op. 62b (1946)

-N. J. Lemmens (1823-1861)

-J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

-Alan Hovhannes (b. 1911)