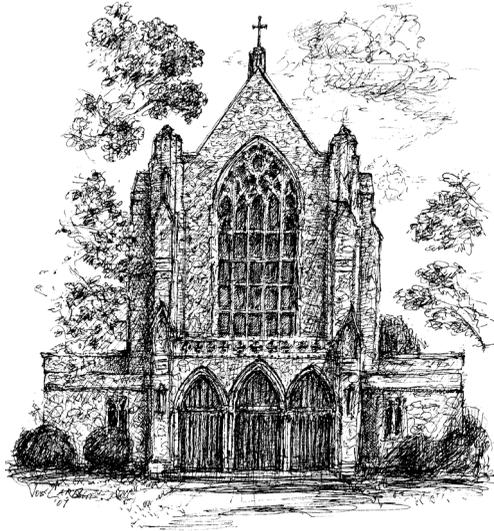


# The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage



Sara Charles Moir  
and  
Jason Price Bohrer, Jr.

*St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
Richmond, Virginia*

*Saturday, April 27, 2024  
5:30 p.m.*

## **Concerning the Service**

Holy Matrimony is the sacramental rite in which two people enter into a life-long union, making their vows before God and the community, and receiving the grace and blessing of God to help them fulfill their vows. The congregation at a wedding supports the couple with their presence and prayers. The congregation also takes a special pledge to support and uphold the couple in their marriage.

**To preserve a spirit of worship**, please silence all electronic devices as soon as you enter the church. Please do not take photographs or use mobile devices before or during the liturgy.

## **Prelude**

Jesu, joy of man's desiring

J.S. Bach

## **Procession**

Trumpet Voluntary

Jeremiah Clarke

Canon in D

Johann Pachelbel

*Please stand as the procession enters the church.*

*Then the Celebrant, facing the people and the persons to be married, addresses the congregation and says*

Dearly beloved: We have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of this man and this woman in Holy Matrimony. The bond and covenant of 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 of 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 husband and wife 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. 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 Sara Charles Moir and Jason Price Bohrer, Jr. 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.

*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 says to the woman*

Sara, 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?

*The Woman answers*

I will.

*The Celebrant says to the man*

Price, 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 Man answers*

I will.

*The Celebrant then 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.**

*The Celebrant then says*

Who presents this woman to be married to this man?

*The Father of the Bride responds*

Her mother and I do.

## **The Ministry of the Word**

*The Celebrant then says to the people*

The Lord be with you.

*People*        **And also with you.**

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, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**The Lessons**        *Please be seated.*

**The First Lesson**        1 Corinthians 13:1-13

*Following the reading, the reader says*

The Word of the Lord.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

## **The Second Lesson** Colossians 3:12-17

*Following the reading, the reader says*

The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## **The Homily**

## **The Marriage**

*The Man, facing the woman and taking her right hand in his, says*

In the Name of God, I, Price, take you, Sara, 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.

*Then they loose their hands, and the Woman, still facing the man, takes his right hand in hers, and says*

In the Name of God, I, Sara, take you, Price, 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.

*They loose their hands.*

*The Priest asks God's blessing on the rings as follows*

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

*The giver places the ring on the ring-finger of the other's hand and says*

Sara, 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.

Price, 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.

*Then the Celebrant joins the right hands of husband and wife and says*

Now that Sara and Price 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. **Amen.**

## The Prayers

*All standing, the Celebrant says*      Let us pray.

### The Lord's Prayer *said together*

**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.**

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 this man and this woman 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.**

Bestow on them, if it is your will, the gift and heritage of children, and the grace to bring them up to know you, to love you, and to serve you. **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.**

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. **Amen.**

## **The Blessing of the Marriage**

*The people remain standing. The husband and wife kneel, and the Priest says the following prayer*

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 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 husband and wife still kneeling, the Priest adds this blessing*

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.**

*Celebrant*           The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*               **And also with you.**

## **Retiring Procession**

The Wedding March

Felix Mendelssohn

from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, incidental music, Op.61



## Flower Memorials

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in memory of  
Charles and Betsy Moir, Charles and Doris Bohrer, Thomas Markham Searles, Jr.,  
Stephanie Starkey Herron, and Alton "Babe" Land.*



## The Wedding Party

- Matron of Honor* Anna Ross Moir Diles  
*Bridesmaids* Emily Walker Bohrer, Cameron Weathers Farley,  
Pauline Gilbert Marting, Katherine Wolfe Melnik,  
Emily Flippo Moore, Isabel MacDonald Reed,  
LeeAnne Lower Stucky  
*Best Man* Jason Price Bohrer  
*Groomsmen* Giles Detwiler Beal IV, Charles Richard Busch II,  
Richard Harper Coulson, Mitchell Derek Diles,  
George Richmond Poindexter, John Thomas VanMeter,  
Robert Sires Watkins Wofford IV  
*Readers* Margaret Grace Andrea, Kennedy Ann Thompson  
*Program Attendants* Anne Spottswood Crenshaw, Anna Marie Preseren  
*Musician* Brent te Velde, *organ*  
*Officiant* The Rev. John W.A. Jenkins  
*Parents of the Bride* Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Page Moir  
*Parents of the Groom* Mr. and Mrs. Jason Price Bohrer



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
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