



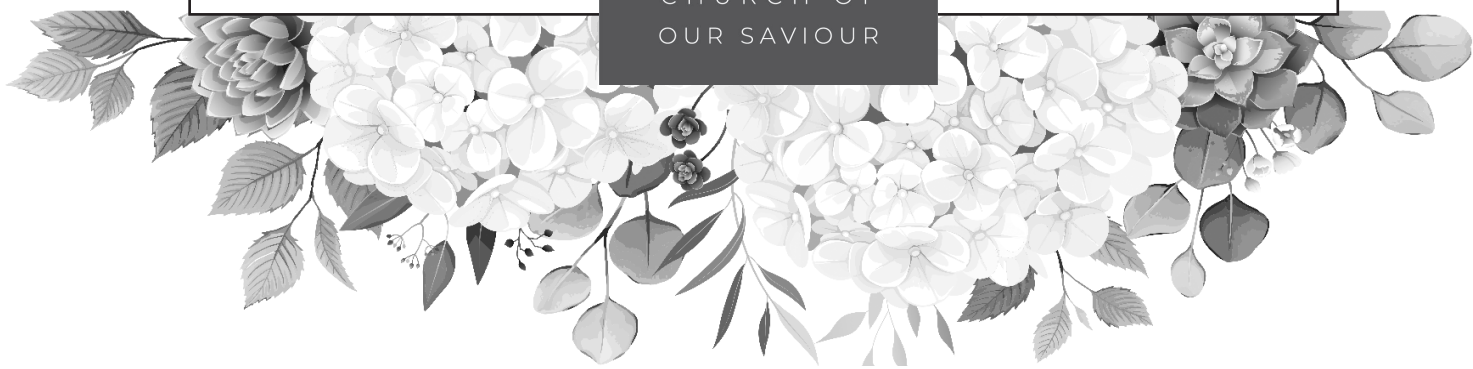
*the Celebration & Blessing
of the Marriage of*

Maura Hooper
&
Aristotle Athiras

Saturday, September 18th, 2021



CHURCH OF
OUR SAVIOUR



Welcome to Church of Our Savior

Because this is a sacred service in the presence of God, in accordance with the custom of the Episcopal Church, we ask that no flash photography be taken once the service begins. Please turn off or silence cell phones and pagers. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

A wedding is one of life's great moments, a time for good wishes, feasting and joy. Saint John tells us how Jesus shared in such an occasion, and gave there a sign of new beginnings.

Marriage is intended by God to be a creative relationship - God's blessing enables two people to love and support each other in good times and bad. For Christians, marriage is also an invitation to share life together in the spirit of Jesus Christ. It is based upon a solemn, public and life-long covenant, made and celebrated in the presence of God and before a priest and congregation.

You, the congregation, are witnesses of the marriage, and express your support by your presence and your prayers. Your part is written in **bold** type.

'Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it.'



THE CELEBRATION AND BLESSING OF A MARRIAGE

Prelude

Salut d'Amour, Op.12

Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

Entrance Procession

Hallelujah

Leonard Cohen (1934-2016)

The Officiant facing the people and the persons to be married, with the woman to the right and the man to the left, 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 Maura Hooper and Aristotle Athiras 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.

The Officiant 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 Officiant says to the woman

Maura, 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 Officiant says to the man

Aristotle, 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 Officiant 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 MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant 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 people are seated for the reading of the Lesson.

The First Lesson

Song of Solomon 2:10-11, 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. Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the 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 one's house, it would be utterly scorned.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Second Lesson

Colossians 3:12-17

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Homily

The Rev. Jeff D.S. Thornberg, *Rector*

THE MARRIAGE

The people remain seated.

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

In the Name of God, I, Aristotle, take you, Maura, 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.

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, Maura, take you, Aristotle, 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 Officiant asks God's blessing on the rings as follows

Bless, O Lord, these rings to be signs 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

Maura, 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 giver places the ring on the ring-finger of the other's hand and says

Aristotle, 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 Officiant then joins the right hands of husband and wife and says

Now that Aristotle and Maura 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 separate. *Amen.*

The Prayers

The people stand, as they are able; the Officiant says,

Let us pray together in the words our Savior taught us.

People and Officiant

**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.**

The people respond to each petition, saying, Amen.

Eternal God, creator and preserver of all life, author of salvation, and giver of all grace: Give this man and this woman 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.

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.**

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.**

THE BLESSING OF THE MARRIAGE

The people remain standing, as they are able. The husband and wife stand or 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 standing or 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.**

The newly married couple kiss each other, after which the wedding party departs.

Postlude

I Can't Help Myself

B. Holland, L. Dozier, and E. Holland

Wedding Party

OFFICIANT

The Rev. Jeff D.S. Thornberg, *Rector*

MAID OF HONOR

Eliza Hooper

BRIDAL PARTY

Maisie Hooper • Sam Dash

BEST MAN

Michael Athari

READERS

Maisie Hooper • Dana Foote

BLESSING

Dana & Sherman Foote

RING BEARER

Gracie Bear Hooper-Athiras

MUSICIANS

Ki Park, piano • Dustin Seo, cello

AUDIO

Gabe Vazquez-Reyes

THE FLOWER ARCH IS DEDICATED IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Azizeh Athari

1952-2019



While we wish Azizeh could be here with us on our big day, we carry her in our hearts every day. When she gave us her blessing she said, "Don't fight! But if you do — Aristotle, tell a joke and make it better." In the spirit of Azizeh, we vow to infuse our partnership with levity, joy, and the briefest of arguments.

x Aristotle & Maura