

The Renewal of Wedding Vows

Erik and Wren St. Gray

Saturday, October 9, 2021

2 o'clock in the afternoon

Scotia Lodge

Scotia, CA

The Renewal of Vows

Entrance Music

Living in the Country (George Winston)

Please stand at the couple's entrance.

Introduction

The Presider greets the people

Welcome to you all.

We have come together
to ask God's blessing on Wren and Erik,
to witness the renewal of their marriage vows
and to bring them our love and support.

I ask you now to pray for them;
and not just to pray today
or only in this place
but to pray in your hearts continually
and over the years.

It is praying, their praying and ours,
which will fulfil God's purposes for Wren and Erik.
Praying is an outlook, a sustained energy,
which creates a marriage
and makes love and forgiveness life-long.

Eternal love never fails;
our love needs to forgive and be forgiven.
As we pray and forgive we minister reconciliation.
Those who marry are God's ministers to each other
of reconciliation and change.
As they grow together,
wife and husband foster one another's strengths,
they provide each other with the reassurance and
love needed to overcome their weaknesses.

From this beginning
God draws them now to a completely new life.
They become awake to each other,
aware of each other,
sensitive to each other's needs.

The Presider says to the couple
Erik and Wren, you are welcome.
Pray that God will uphold and cheer your life together,
that your promises be honoured,
your words true,
now and in time to come.

The Presider addresses the whole congregation

Will you, their friends and family, do all in your power to support Wren and Erik now, and in the years ahead?

The people reply

We will.

The Presider says

May God's grace surround you and keep you all, and so we pray,

People **The peace of God which is beyond our understanding keep guard over your thoughts and hearts.**

Presider God keep you friends with one another, forgiving one another in kindness.

People **May you follow Jesus in happiness or suffering. May hope keep you joyful. Stand firm in trouble. Be strong in prayer.**

Presider May God make you compassionate and brave.

People **Above all, may there always be love to bind and keep you whole.**

Please be seated.

The Ministry of the Word
The First Reading
Colossians 3:9-17

The Reader says

A reading from Paul's letter to the Colossians.

What you have done is put aside your old self with its past deeds and put on a new self, one that grows in knowledge as it is formed anew in the image of its Creator. And in that image, there is no Greek or Hebrew; no Jew or Gentile; no barbarian or Scythian; no slave or citizen. There is only Christ, who is all in all.

Because you are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt compassion, with kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive whatever grievances you have against one another--forgive in the same way God has forgiven you. Above all else, put on love, which binds the rest together and makes them perfect.

Let Christ's peace reign in your hearts since, as members of one body, you have been called to that peace. Dedicate yourselves to thankfulness.

Let the Word of Christ, rich as it is, dwell in you. Instruct and admonish one another wisely. Sing gratefully to God from your hearts in psalms, hymns and songs of the Spirit. And whatever you do, whether in speech or in action, do it in the name of Jesus our Savior, giving thanks to God through Christ.

Here ends the reading.

The Second Reading

A selection from *Gift from the Sea*

by Anne Morrow Lindbergh

The Reader says

A good relationship has a pattern like a dance and is built on some of the same rules. The partners do not need to hold on tightly, because they move confidently in the same pattern, intricate but gay and swift and free, like a country dance of Mozart's. To touch heavily would be to arrest the pattern and freeze the movement, to check the endlessly changing beauty of its unfolding. There is no place here for the possessive clutch, the clinging arm, the heavy hand; only the barest touch in passing. Now arm in arm, now face to face, now back to back – it does not matter

which. Because they know they are partners moving to the same rhythm, creating a pattern together, and being invisibly nourished by it.

The joy of such a pattern is not only the joy of creation or the joy of participation, it is also the joy of living in the moment. Lightness of touch and living in the moment are intertwined. One cannot dance well unless one is completely in time with the music, not leaning back to the last step or pressing forward to the next one, but poised directly on the present step as it comes. Perfect poise on the beat is what gives good dancing its sense of ease, of timelessness, of the eternal. It is what Blake was speaking of when he wrote:

*He who bends to himself a joy
Doth the wingèd life destroy,
But he who kisses the joy as it flies
Lives in Eternity's sunrise.*

The dancers who are perfectly in time never destroy "the wingèd life" in each other or in themselves.

But how does one learn this technique of the dance? Why is it so difficult? What makes us

hesitate and stumble? It is fear, I think, that makes one cling nostalgically to the last moment or clutch greedily toward the next. Fear destroys "the winged life." But how to exorcise it? It can only be exorcised by its opposite, love. When the heart is flooded with love there is no room in it for fear, for doubt, for hesitation. And it is this lack of fear that makes for the dance. When each partner loves so completely that he has forgotten to ask himself whether or not he is loved in return; when he only knows that he loves and is moving to its music – then, and then only, are two people able to dance perfectly in tune to the same rhythm.

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

The Gospel

Matthew 5:1-10

The Presider says

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you Lord, Christ.**

Please be seated.

The Homily

The Presider prays

Jesus, do for Wren and Erik
as you did in Cana of Galilee.
Take the old water, their busy individual lives,
and turn them into gospel wine.

The husband and wife face each other and join hands.

Erik says

Wren, you are my wife.
All that I have I offer you;
what you have to give I gladly receive;
wherever you go I will go.
I will always turn towards you,
as we weather all sorrows and hardships,
and celebrate all the joys of our lives.
You are my love.
God keep me true to you always
and you to me.

Wren says

Erik, you are my husband.
All that I have I offer you;
what you have to give I gladly receive;

wherever you go I will go.
I will always turn towards you,
as we weather all sorrows and hardships,
and celebrate all the joys of our lives.
You are my love.
God keep me true to you always
and you to me.

The couple prays

God of tenderness and strength, you have brought
our paths together and led us to a shared life
together. Go with us now as we travel through
good times, through trouble, or through change.
Bless our home, our partings and our meetings.
Make us worthy of each other's best, and tender
with each other's dreams, trusting in your love in
Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Presider says to the couple

May God give you light to guide you and love to
unite you, so that you may be faithful to the vows
you have renewed this day and live together in joy
and peace till your lives end. **Amen.**

The Prayers

The Presider says to the couple

Wren and Erik, we welcome you as husband and wife. Pray, and we will pray with you. May God enrich the life you have chosen and fulfil your hopes.

Chelsea prays

Eternal God, creator of us all,
we praise you for all the ways
in which your love comes into our lives,
and for all the joys
that can come to us all through marriage.

Silence

Today we especially pray for Erik and Wren
in their married life.

With them we thank you for the love and care of
their parents,
which has guided them to maturity
and prepared them for this commitment.

Silence

Give them strength
to keep the vows they have made,
to be loyal and faithful to each other,

and to support each other throughout their lives,
that they may bear each other's burdens
and share each other's joys.

Help them to be honest and patient with each other,
to be wise and loving parents
and to welcome both friends and strangers into
their home.

Silence

In all their future together
may they enjoy each other
and grow through the love they share,
until, at the end of this life,
you receive us all into your eternal kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

Amen.

The Presider says to the couple

Erik and Wren, you may kiss one another as a sign
of God's peace and your coming together as
husband and wife.

The Presider addresses the people

Please share a sign of God's peace with one another.

Welcome and Instructions for Communion

Holy Communion

The Preparation of the Gifts

The Presider says

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 the body and blood of Christ.

People

**All you have made is good. Your love endures
for ever.**

Please stand as you are able.

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Presider

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we say:

Presider and People

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of
the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Presider continues

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you

and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

Presider

And now we offer the prayer Jesus gave us, using the version of your choice,

Presider 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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Presider God of promise, you have prepared a
banquet for us.

People **Happy are those who are called to the
Supper of the Lamb.**

The Invitation

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Please be seated.

Communion with the host only will be offered from a standing station. At the invitation of the Presider, please move into the center aisle and come forward to receive the host leaving space between you and the person in front of you. Both wheat and gluten free wafers are available. Please return to your seats by the side aisle.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

As Communion is administered, those viewing from home are invited to offer the following prayer.

Lord Jesus, draw near to us as we are far from one another, be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may be united with you and each other in the bread that has been broken. Amen.

Music during Communion

Hymn 11 (Pierre Bensusan)

Post Communion Prayer

Presider and People

**All praise and glory to you, God of love,
Creator of the universe, maker of humankind in
your likeness,**

Source of blessing for married life.

**All praise to you for you have created courtship
and marriage,**

**Joy and gladness, feasting and laughter, pleasure
and delight.**

May your blessing come in full on Erik and Wren.

**May they know your presence in their joys and in
their sorrows.**

**May they reach old age in the company of friends
And come at last to your eternal kingdom.**

Amen.

Blessing of the Congregation

The Presider prays

The world is now too dangerous and too beautiful
for anything but love.

May your eyes be so blessed you see God in everyone.

Your ears, so you hear the cry of the poor.

May your hands be so blessed that everything you touch is a sacrament.

Your lips, so you speak nothing but the truth with love.

May your feet be so blessed you run to those who need you.

And may your heart be so opened,
so set on fire, that your love,
your love, changes everything.

And may the blessing of the God who created you,
loves you, and sustains you,
be with you now and always.

Amen.

The Dismissal

The Presider says

Go now in peace and love.

People **Thanks be to God!**

Recessional music

Three Reels (Planxty)

Participants:

Presider:	The Very Rev. Sara Potter
Wren's Attendants:	Linden Gray-Reneberg, Chelsea Pell and Kelsey Smoker Baker
Erik's Attendants:	Kristin Bergman, Jefferson Smoker Baker and David Castillo-Mueller
Readers:	Kristin Bergman and Camryn Tiner
Prayer Leader:	Chelsea Pell
Communion Asst.:	Linden Gray-Reneberg
Tech Support:	Garrett Purchio

Sources for today's service include the *New Zealand Prayer Book* (Marriage Liturgy Second Form) for the Renewal of Vows and *Enriching Our Worship 1: Morning and Evening Prayer, The Great Litany and the Holy Eucharistic* (Eucharistic Prayer 2) for the celebration of Holy Communion.