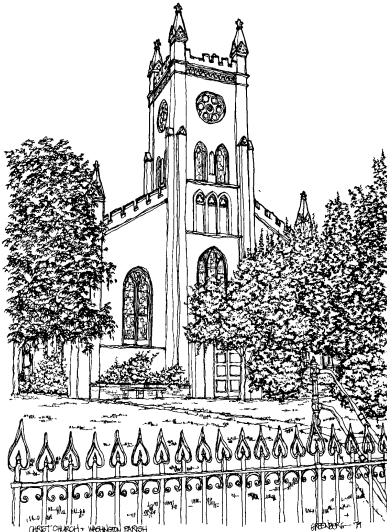


The Celebration and Blessing
of the Marriage of
Alissa Anne Robinson
and
Michael Andrew Byers



July 11, 2020
At ten o'clock in the morning
Christ Church + Washington Parish
Washington, DC

Participants

Celebrant
Readers

The Reverend Dr. Richard Miles
Madeline Suess, Matron of Honor
Randall Alston, Best Man

*Please respond all together when a word or statement appears in bold text, such as
“We will” or “Amen.”*

Order of Service

Processional

Greeting

Declaration of Consent

Ministry of the Word

Lessons

Homily

The Marriage

The Prayers

The Blessing

Sharing the Peace

Presentation

Processional

The Opening Address

Please stand.

Celebrant 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.

Celebrant 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.

Celebrant Into this holy union *Alissa Anne Robinson* and *Michael Andrew Byers* now come to be joined.

The Declaration of Consent

Celebrant *Alissa*, 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?

Bride I will.

Celebrant *Michael*, 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?

Groom I will.

Celebrant 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

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant 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.**

Please be seated for the readings.

The Readings

First Reading

Song of Solomon 2:10-13; 8:6-7

Madeline Suess

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.

The flowers appear on the earth;
the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtle-dove
is heard in our land.

The fig tree puts forth its figs,
and the vines are in blossom;
they give forth fragrance.

Arise, my love, my fair one,
and come away.

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.**

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Homily

The Rev. Dr. Richard Miles

The Marriage

- Celebrant *Michael and Alissa*, I invite you now, illumined by the Word of God and strengthened by the prayers of this community, to make your covenant before God and the Church.
- Groom In the Name of God, I, *Michael*, take you, *Alissa*, 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.
- Bride In the Name of God, I, *Alissa*, take you, *Michael*, 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.
- Celebrant 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.*
- Groom *Alissa*, 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.
- Bride *Michael*, 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.
- Celebrant Now that Michael and Alissa 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.
- People **Amen.**

The Prayers

Please stand.

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

**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.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant 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.

People **Amen.**

Celebrant 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.

People **Amen.**

Celebrant 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.

People **Amen.**

Celebrant Give them grace, when they hurt each other, to recognize and acknowledge their fault, and to seek each other's forgiveness and yours.

People **Amen.**

Celebrant 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.

People **Amen.**

Celebrant 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.

People **Amen.**

Celebrant Give them such fulfillment of their mutual affection that they may reach out in love and concern for others.

People **Amen.**

Celebrant Grant that all married persons who have witnessed these vows may find their lives strengthened and their loyalties confirmed.

People **Amen.**

Celebrant 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.

People **Amen.**

The Blessing of the Marriage

Please remain standing.

Celebrant O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Celebrant 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 Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The newly married couple greet each other with a kiss, after which greetings may be exchanged throughout the congregation.

Presentation

Celebrant Friends, I now present to you the newly married couple, Mike and Alissa.

Processional