

**The Making and Blessing of the  
Covenant of Marriage  
Order of Service**



*Steve & Alison*

**St George's Church, Stalybridge  
21st May 2005**

### **Before the Service**

Three candles are brought into Church and placed on the altar by Philip, Katie and Danielle.

### **Entrance of the Bride**

Music: *Bridal Chorus* Wagner  
Played by Dr Chris Anderson

### **Introduction**

- Welcome: Revd Ian Stubbs
- Alison and Steve light two candles to represent their individual journeys
- A Christian understanding of marriage
- The Declarations
- A Marriage Prayer
- Reading by Philip from 1 Corinthians 13
- Address: Ian

### *Chorus*

I danced on a Friday and the sky turned black;  
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back;  
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,  
But I am the dance and I still go on.

### *Chorus*

They cut me down and I leapt up high,  
I am the life that'll never, never die;  
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

### *Chorus*

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### **The Dismissal**

*Please stand to face Alison and Steve as they leave*

Organ music: *Wedding March* Mendelssohn

HYMN:

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,  
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,  
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth,  
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

*Chorus*

*Dance, then, wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.  
And I'll lead you all wherever you may be,  
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,  
But they would not dance and they would not follow me;  
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;  
They came to me and the dance went on.

*Chorus*

I danced on the Sabbath when I cured the lame,  
The holy people said it was a shame;  
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high;  
And they left me there on a cross to die.

Hymn:

Lord, the light of your love is shining  
In the midst of the darkness, shining  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us  
Set us free by the truth you now bring us  
Shine on me, shine on me

Shine, Jesus, shine  
Fill this land with the Father's glory  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze  
Set our hearts on fire  
Flow, river, flow  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy  
Send forth your word  
Lord, and let there be light

Lord, I come to your awesome presence  
From the shadows into your radiance  
By the blood I may enter your brightness  
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness  
Shine on me, shine on me

As we gaze on your kingly brightness  
So our faces display your likeness  
Ever changing from glory to glory  
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story  
Shine on me, shine on me

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## The Marriage

- The Vows
- The Giving of Rings
- The Proclamation that Steve & Alison are husband and wife
- The Blessing of their Marriage—*all stand*

Blessed are you, heavenly Father.  
**All You give joy to bridegroom and bride.**

Blessed are you, Lord Jesus Christ.  
**All You bring life to the world.**

Blessed are you, Holy Spirit of God.  
**All You bind us together in love.**

Blessed are you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever.  
**All Amen.**

The Peace of the Lord be always with you  
**All: And also with you**

*After the words of the Peace Alison and Steve will kiss each other and then greet those around them*

HYMN:

Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising  
give me joy in my heart, I pray.  
Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,  
keep me praising till the break of day.

chorus: Sing hosanna ! Sing hosanna !  
Sing hosanna to the King of Kings!  
Sing hosanna ! Sing hosanna !  
Sing hosanna to the King !

Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting,  
give me peace in my heart, I pray.  
Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting,  
keep me resting till the break of day.

Give me love in my heart, keep me serving,  
give me love in my heart, I pray.  
Give me love in my heart, keep me serving,  
keep me serving till the break of day.

Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning.  
give me oil in my lamp, I pray.  
keep me burning till the break of day  
keep me burning till the break of day.

Registration of the Marriage  
*During which music will be played*

Prayers: Led by Ian, Philip & Danielle