

# The Celebration and Blessing of the Civil Marriage of



*Amaka Obasi  
and  
Chinaka Obasi*

May 20, 2023

## Prior to Service

Jon Cox, Bagpipes

**Prelude**      **Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring**      *J. S. Bach*  
**Allegro Moderato**      *George F. Handel*

## Bride's Processional: Trumpet Voluntary *Jeremiah Clark*

Dearly beloved: We have come together in the presence of God to 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.

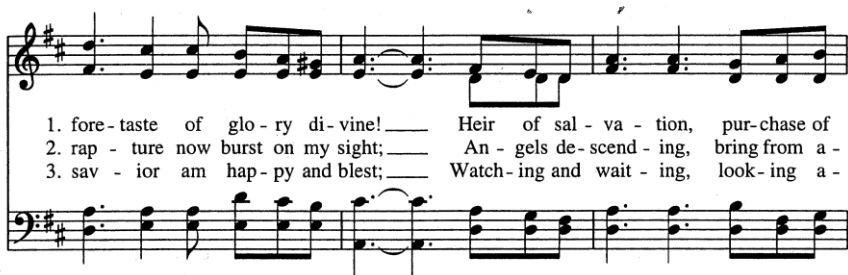
The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and, when it is God's will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord. Therefore marriage 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, Amaka Obasi and Chinaka Obasi have been joined and come for God's blessing.

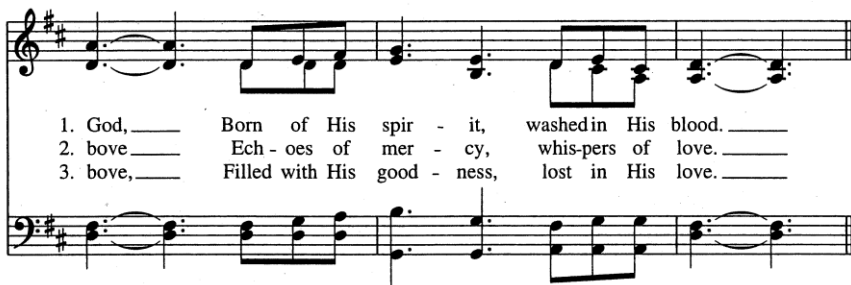
## Blessed Assurance *(all sing)*



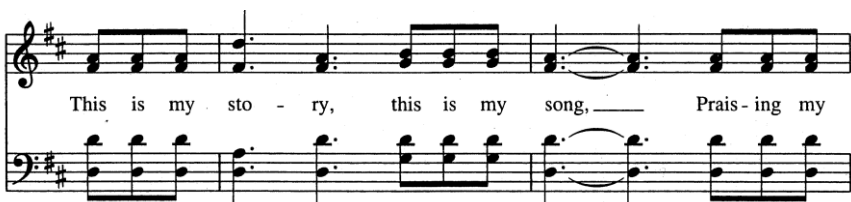
1. Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! — O what a  
2. Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, — Vi-sions of  
3. Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest, — I in my



1. fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine! \_\_\_\_\_ Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of  
 2. rap-ture now burst on my sight; \_\_\_\_\_ An-gels de-scend-ing, bring from a-  
 3. sav-ior am hap-py and blest; \_\_\_\_\_ Watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-



1. God, \_\_\_\_\_ Born of His spir-it, washed in His blood. \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. bove \_\_\_\_\_ Ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love. \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. bove, \_\_\_\_\_ Filled with His good-ness, lost in His love. \_\_\_\_\_



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, \_\_\_\_\_ Prais-ing my



sav-ior all the day long; \_\_\_\_\_ This is my sto-ry, this is my



song, \_\_\_\_\_ Prais-ing my sav-ior all the day long. \_\_\_\_\_

Words: Fanny J. Crosby; Music: Phoebe P. Knapp

## The Ministry of the Word

*Celebrant*      The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant*      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 sit for the Lessons.*

### Old Testament Lesson

**Genesis 1:26-28**

### **Psalm 128** (*read responsively by whole verse*)

1 Happy are they all who fear the Lord, \*  
and who follow in his ways!

**2 You shall eat the fruit of your labor; \*  
happiness and prosperity shall be yours.**

3 Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine within your house, \*  
your children like olive shoots round about your table.

**4 The man who fears the Lord \*  
shall thus indeed be blessed.**

5 The Lord bless you from Zion, \*  
and may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days  
of your life.

**6 May you live to see your children's children; \*  
may peace be upon Israel.**

## New Testament Lesson

**Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33**

**Hymn 405** *(all sing)*

*All Things Bright and Beautiful*

**The Gospel** *(standing)*

**Mark 10:6-9, 13-16**

*Priest* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Mark.

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

*After the Gospel, the Priest says*

*Priest* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Sermon**

*The Reverend Robin Reeves-Kautz*

**The Blessing of a Civil Marriage**

[BCP 433]

Chinaka and Amaka, you have come here today to seek the blessing of God and of his Church upon your marriage. I require, therefore, that you promise, with the help of God, to fulfill the obligations which Christian Marriage demands.

*The Celebrant then addresses the husband, saying*

Chinaka, you have taken Amaka to be your wife. Do you promise to love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, to be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

The Husband answers I do.

*The Celebrant then addresses the wife, saying*

Amaka, you have taken Chinaka to be your husband. Do you promise to love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, to be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

The Wife answers I do.

*The Celebrant then addresses the congregation, saying*

Will you who have witnessed these promises do all in your power to uphold these two persons in their marriage?

People     **We will.**

*If a ring or rings are to be blessed, the wife extends her hand (and the husband extends his hand) toward the Priest, who says*

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

Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

The Congregation responds     **Amen.**

**The Prayers**

[BCP 428]

*All standing, the person appointed reads the following prayers, to which the People respond, saying, Amen.*

Let us pray.

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 God's love to this sinful and broken world, that unity may overcome estrangement, forgiveness heal guilt, and joy conquer despair. ***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 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 one of the following prayers*

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 continue to 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.**

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 Blessing of New Family United**

### **The Peace**

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



*Please greet each other in a spirit of joy.*

## The Holy Communion

### The Offertory

*The liturgy then continues with the Offertory, at which the newly married couple may present the offerings of bread and wine.*

*At the Communion, it is appropriate that the newly married couple receive Communion first, after the ministers.*

### Great Is Thy Faithfulness (*all sing*)

1. Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther,  
2. Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,  
3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

1. There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee;  
2. Sun, moon and stars in their cours - es a - bove,  
3. Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;

1. Thou chang - est not, thy com - pas - sions, they fail not,  
2. Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness,  
3. Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,

1. As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
 2. To thy great faith - ful-ness, mer - cy and love.  
 3. Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Great is thy faith - ful-ness! Great is thy faith - ful-ness!

Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see;

All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed,

Great is Thy faith - ful-ness, Lord un - to me!

Words: Thomas O. Chisholm; Music: William M. Runyan; Copyright © 1923. Renewal 1951 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188.

## The Great Thanksgiving: Prayer A (*stand*) [BCP 361]

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

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

*Priest* Lift up your hearts.

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

*Priest* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*Priest* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the love of wife and husband, you have given us an image of the heavenly Jerusalem, adorned as a bride for her bridegroom, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who loves her and gave himself for her, that he might make the whole creation new. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name.

*Celebrant 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 he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

*The Celebrant continues* Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given

thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues* We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

*People and Celebrant:* **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 Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

*Celebrant:* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People:* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*Celebrant:* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*All baptized Christians are welcome to come to the altar and receive the bread and wine of communion. Others are invited to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms over your chest. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please tell the priest just before you receive communion.*

## **Post Communion Prayer** (*stand or kneel*)

O God, the giver of all that is true and lovely and gracious: We give you thanks for binding us together in these holy mysteries of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that by your Holy Spirit, Amaka and Chinaka, now joined in Holy Matrimony, may become one in heart and soul, live in fidelity and peace, and obtain those eternal joys prepared for all who love you; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

**Recessional: Allegro Maestoso**

*George F. Handel*

## **The Dismissal:**

*Celebrant*     Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

*People*        **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**



***A reception will be held in the Parish Hall.***

### **Family**

Lady Josephine Obasi - Mother of the Groom  
Mrs. Amuche Obasi (née Udemezue) – Sister of the Bride

### **Bride**

Amaka C. Obasi

### **Groom**

Chinaka U. Obasi

### **Maid of Honor**

Divine Obasi

### **Bridesmaid**

Esther Obasi

### **Groomsman**

David Obasi

### **Celebrant**

The Reverend Robin Reeves-Kautz

### **Ushers**

Colinda Frieauf, Denis James, Judi James, and Ron Weeks

### **Readers**

Kay Aplin and Arleen Frank

### **Acolytes**

Tony Janeshek, Hannah Poore, and Mary Young

### **Chalicer**

Angela McCabe

### **Music**

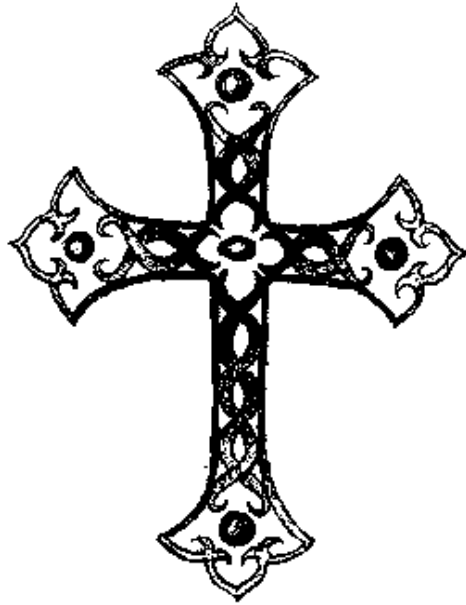
Jon Cox, Bagpipes  
Bonnie McDaniel, Organist  
Andrea Hutchison, Vocalist

### **Technology**

Sound Technician, Jay Richardson  
Videographer, Sondra Griner

### **Wedding Team**

Sandra Weir, Maria Niswander, Janet Hicks,  
and Sharon Chamberlain



**St. Timothy's Episcopal Church**  
**200 Oyster Creek Drive**  
**Lake Jackson, Texas**  
**979-297-6003**

**Website:** [www.stimothy.org](http://www.stimothy.org)

**Facebook:** St. Timothy's Episcopal Church – Lake Jackson

**YouTube:**

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streams](https://www.youtube.com/@sainttimothysepiscopalchur4693/streams)

**YouTube Link to the Wedding:**

<https://youtube.com/live/J4fIdjlu4Y?feature=share>