

# The American Church in Berlin

an ecumenical home for people from diverse nations  
sharing God's love in Jesus Christ



The Wedding Service of

*Edith Mary Bishop*  
&  
*Alan Eric Benson*

Tuesday the first of March, 2005

7:00 p.m.

**THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN BERLIN**

at the Luther Church in Berlin-Schöneberg  
Bülowstraße at Dennewitzplatz



**THE AMERICAN CHURCH IN BERLIN**  
An Ecumenical, International Christian Community

The Wedding Service of

**Edith Bishop & Alan Benson**  
**March 1, 2005**

**Prelude**                      Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring                      J.S. Bach  
   Canon in D    J. Pachelbel

**Processional**              Trumpet Voluntary                                      Jeremiah Clarke

**Greeting**

**Hymn 551**                      Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

*Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, Praising thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.*


*All thy works with joy surround thee, Earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around thee, Center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in thee.*

*Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,  
Wellspring of the joy of living, Ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, All who live in love are thine;  
Teach us how to love each other, Lift us to the joy divine!*

**Apostolic Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **☩ And also with you.**

## Prayer

Let us pray. Eternal God, our creator and redeemer, as you gladdened the wedding at Cana in Galilee by the presence of your Son, so by his presence now bring your joy to this wedding. Look in favor upon Alan and Edith and grant that they, rejoicing in all your gifts, may at length celebrate with Christ the marriage feast which has no end.  **Amen**

## Readings and Special Music

Song of Solomon 8:6-7

Read by Charis Look

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.

Duet

On Eagle Wings

Thomas and Alexa Benson  
Music from Michael Joncas

1 Corinthians 13: 1-8 and 13

Read by Maria Benson

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end.

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Solo

Although I Speak with Angel's Tongue

Jennifer Hanus  
(Hymn R213)

Matthew 22: 35-40

Read by David Benson

And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

## **Meditation**

Pastor Ben Coltvet

### **Promises of Faithfulness**

**A** The Lord God in his goodness created us male and female, and by the gift of marriage founded human community in a joy that begins now and is brought to perfection in the life to come.

Because of sin, our age-old rebellion, the gladness of marriage can be overcast and the gift of the family can become a burden.

But because God, who established marriage, continues still to bless it with his abundant and ever-present support, we can be sustained in our weariness and have our joy restored.

**P** Alan and Edith, if it is your intention to share with each other your joys and sorrows and all that the years will bring, with your promises bind yourselves to each other as husband and wife.

I take you, *Edith/Alan*, to be my *wife/husband* from this day forward, to join with you and share all that is to come, and I promise to be faithful to you until death parts us.

### **Exchange of Rings**

I give you this ring as a sign of my love and faithfulness.

## Announcement of Marriage

**P** Alan and Edith, by their promises before God and in the presence of this congregation, have bound themselves to one another as husband and wife.

**C** **Blessed be the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit now and forever.**

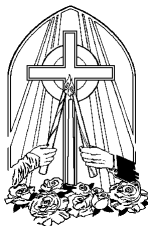
**P** Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

**C** **Amen**

## Marriage Blessing

**P** The Lord God, who created our first parents and established them in marriage, establish and sustain you, that you may find delight in each other and grow in holy love until your life's end. **C** **Amen**

## Lighting of the Unity Candle



Solo

From this Moment

Denise Banks-Grasedyck  
Music from Shania Twain

## Prayers

**A** Let us bless God for all the gifts in which we rejoice today.

**P** Lord God, constant in mercy, great in faithfulness: With high praise we recall your acts of unfailing love for the human family, for the house of Israel, and for your people the Church.

We bless you for the joy which your servants, Alan and Edith, have found in each other, and pray that you give to us such a sense of your constant love that we may employ all our strength in a life of praise of you, whose work alone holds true and endures forever. **C** **Amen**

**A** Let us pray for Alan and Edith in their life together.

**P** Faithful Lord, source of love, pour down your grace upon Alan and Edith, that they may fulfill the vows they have made this day and reflect your steadfast love in their life-long faithfulness to each other. As members with them of the body of Christ, use us to support their life together; and from your great store of strength give them power and patience, affection and understanding, courage, and love toward you, toward each other, and toward the world, that they may continue together in mutual growth according to your will in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** **Amen**

**A** Let us pray for all families throughout the world.

**P** Gracious Father, you bless the family and renew your people. Enrich husbands and wives, parents and children more and more with your grace, that, strengthening and supporting each other, they may serve those in need and be a sign of the fulfillment of your perfect kingdom, where, with your Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, one God through all ages of ages. **C** **Amen**

## **Sharing the Peace**

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

## **The Eucharist**

### Eucharistic Prayer

On the night of his betrayal our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to his disciples saying: Take and eat; this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. After supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

### Lord's Prayer

**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, forever and ever. Amen**

*We invite all who believe in Christ to come to the Lord's table. Children who do not yet commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing. Welcome to this holy meal!*

Distribution Music: Hymn 561, For the Beauty of the Earth



# Hymn R222, This Is a Day, Lord, Gladly Awaited

## **Benediction**

**P** Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, keep you in his light and truth and love now and forever. **C** **Amen**

## **Introduction to the Congregation**

I present to you Alan and Edith as husband and wife.

## **Recessional**

Wedding March

F. Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

**Pastor**

Ben Coltvet

**Intern**

Jennifer Hanus

**Acolyte**

Tatjana von Rosen

**Matron of Honor**

Elizabeth Skidmore

**Best Man**

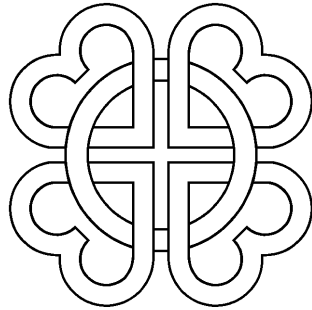
David Look

**Readers**

David and Maria Benson, Charis Look

**Instrumental Music**

Margit Coltvet, violin  
Vera Gitschmann, organ



“One in the  
Bond of Love”