

*A Celebration of  
The Civil Marriage of*

*Kathleen Mims*



*Edward Coleman*

*The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer  
Greensboro, Georgia  
December 12, 2020*

## The Invitation

*The Celebrant addresses the husband and wife, and those gathered,*

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.

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 Ed Coleman and Kathy Mims now come to be joined. If any of you can show just cause why they may not lawfully be married, speak now; or else for ever hold your peace.

*Then the Celebrant says to the persons to be married*

I require and charge you both, here in the presence of God, that if either of you know any reason why you may not be united in marriage lawfully, and in accordance with God's Word, you do now confess it.

## The Declaration of Consent

*The Celebrant says to the woman*

Kathy, 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?

*Kathy answers*

I will.

*The Celebrant says to the man*

Ed, 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?

*Ed answers*

I will.

*After the bride and groom have declared their consent the Officiant addresses those present*

Will all of you witnessing these promises do all in your power to uphold these two persons in their marriage?

*People:* We will.

## The Collect of the Day

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Officiant: 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.*

## Reading

### 1Corinthians 13:1-13

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. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

## The Marriage

*The man, facing the woman and taking her right hand in his, says*

In the Name of God, I, Ed, take you, Kathy, 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.

*Then they loose their hands, and the woman, still facing the man, takes his right hand in hers, and says*

In the Name of God, I, Kathy, take you, Ed, 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.

*They loose their hands.*

## The Blessing and Exchange of Rings

*The Priest may ask God's blessing on a ring or rings as follows*

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.

*The giver places the ring on the ring-finger of the other's hand and says*

Ed/Kathy, 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 Spirit.

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

Now that Ed and Kathy 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 Celebrant may invite the husband and wife to exchange a kiss.*

## Benediction and Dismissal

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and your minds in the knowledge and love of God, and God's son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now and evermore. *Amen.*

*Celebrant:* Let us bless the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.



### **THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER**

The Right Rev. Robert C. Wright, Bishop  
The Right Rev. Don Wimberly, Assisting Bishop  
The Right Rev. Paul Lambert, Assisting Bishop  
The Rev. Bill Combs, Rector  
Jenny Moore, Organist  
Bill Goad, Organist  
Elaine Hall, Parish Administrator

### **VESTRY**

Ed Coleman, Senior Warden, Administration  
John Fox, Junior Warden, Building and Grounds  
Lucy Ogletree, Christian Education  
Nancy Beckemeyer, Communication  
Everett Price, Congregational Growth & Development  
Mimi Vickers, Outreach  
Stan Mileski, Stewardship  
Heather Kennerson, Treasurer  
Susan Fox, Vestry Clerk