



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
OF LINCOLN, NEBRASKA. AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND ACTION

REV. LARRY MOFFET  
*Senior Pastor*

BRENT SHAW TRENNEY  
*Minister of Music and Evangelism*

*(DATE)*  
**THE WITNESS AND BLESSING OF THE MARRIAGE OF**  
*(BRIDE) AND (GROOM)*  
*(TIME)*

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Welcome to First Church Lincoln in University Place Neighborhood. Our vision is to be an extraordinary spiritual gathering place where people of all backgrounds and ages are welcome to pray, worship, serve, to question and learn; being loved by God in ways that change and improve their lives and the lives of others.

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*Prior to the service, music is played on the Organ.*

Praeludium, Ciaconne, and Fugue

Prelude in Classic Style

Fugue in D Major, BWV

Dietrich Buxtehude

Gordon Young

Johann Sebastian Bach

**THE ENTRANCE RITE**

Procession of Family

Procession of the Bride and Groom

Greeting by The Pastor

HYMN OF PRAISE: *Where Charity and Love Prevail*

All Sing



1. Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail,
2. With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear
3. For - give we now each oth - er's faults
4. Let strife a - mong us be un - known,
5. Let us re - call that in our midst
6. No race nor creed can love ex - clude,



1. There God is ev - er found; Brought here to - geth - er
2. His char - i - ty we learn; Let us with heart and
3. As we our faults con - fess; And let us love each
4. Let all con - ten - tion cease; Be his the glo - ry
5. Dwells God's be - got - ten Son; As mem - bers of his
6. If hon - ored be God's name; Our fam - i - ly em -



1. by Christ's love, By love are we thus bound.
2. mind and soul Now love him in re - turn.
3. oth - er well In Chris - tian ho - li - ness.
4. that we seek, Be ours his ho - ly peace.
5. Bod - y joined, We are in him made one.
6. brac - es all Whose Fa - ther is the same.

Based on *Ubi caritas*, 9th cent.  
Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997

(Standard text) Paul Benoit, 1893-1979  
Text and music © 1960, WLP

*Pastor:* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

*People:* **Blessed be God, now and forever. Amen**

*Pastor:* Beloved, let us love one another,

*People:* **For love is of God**

*Pastor:* Whoever does not love does not know God

*People:* **For God is love**

*Pastor:* Since God so loves us,

*People:* **Let us love one another.**

*The Pastor continues in prayer*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with your spirit.**

Pastor: Let us pray...*the pastor continues in prayer*).

**Amen.**

#### DECLARATION OF INTENT:

Pastor:

I ask you now, in the presence of God and these people, to declare your intention to enter into union with each other through the grace of Jesus Christ, who calls you into union with himself as acknowledged in your baptism.

Pastor: *(bride's name)*, will you have *(groom's name)* to be your husband, to live together in holy 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.**

Pastor: *(Groom's name)*, will you have *(Bride's name)* to be your wife, to live together in holy 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.**

#### RESPONSE OF THE FAMILIES AND THE PEOPLE:

Pastor to people:

The marriage of *(Bride)* and *(Groom)* unites their families and creates a new one. They ask for your blessing. Do you who represent their families rejoice in their union and pray God's blessing upon them?

People: **We do.**

Pastor to people: Will all of you, by God's grace, do everything in your power to uphold and care for these two persons in their marriage?

People: **We will.**

**OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE - Isaiah 43:1-5**

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah:*

And now, says the Lord to you my people, to all my people,  
Do not fear, I am with you. I have already saved you.  
I have called you by name and you are mine.  
When you go through the deep waters of life, I will be with you.  
The rivers will not overwhelm you.  
When you go through the fires of life, I will be with you.  
The fire will not consume you. For you are mine.  
I love you, and I honor you. Do not be afraid, I am with you.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks Be to God.**

**EPISTLE SCRIPTURE – I Corinthians 13:1-8, 13**

*A reading from Paul's first Letter to the Corinthians:*

If I can speak in all the languages human beings know,  
and even the languages of angels, but do not have love,  
all I am is a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.  
If I can predict all of the future and understand all mysteries,  
and even have enough faith to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.  
If I give away all my possessions and even hand over my body to be burned  
so I may boast that I have done all I can do, but do not have love, I gain nothing.  
Love is patient, love is kind, love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.  
Love does not insist on its own way. Love is not irritable or resentful.  
Love does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but always rejoices in the truth.  
Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.  
Love never ends...Now these three abide, faith, hope, and love.  
And the greatest of these is love.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks Be to God.**

## **GOSPEL SCRIPTURE –Matthew 5:1-12**

*Please stand for the reading of the gospel.*

*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St. Matthew:*

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.<sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:  
'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.  
'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.  
'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.  
'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.  
'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.  
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.  
'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you  
and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely\* on my account.  
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven,  
for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Lector: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Glory to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**PRAYER THROUGH MUSIC: PRAYER OF ST FRANCIS**

**HOMILY**

Pastor Larry

**THE WITNESSING OF THE VOWS AND THE MARRIAGE AT THE ALTAR**

The pastor and the couple go to the altar.

The couple face each other, joining hands.

## THE VOWS

*(Groom to Bride):*

*(Bride's name)*, in the name of God, I take you to be my wife from this time forward, to join with you and to share all that is to come, to give and to receive, to speak and to listen, to inspire and to respond, and in all our life together to be loyal to you with all that I am, as long as we both shall live.

*(Bride to Groom):*

*(Groom's name)*, in the name of God, I take you to be my husband from this time forward, to join with you and to share all that is to come, to give and to receive, to speak and to listen, to inspire and to respond, and in all our life together to be loyal to you with all that I am, as long as we both shall live.

## THE BLESSING AND EXCHANGE OF RINGS

These rings are the outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, signifying the relationship of Jesus Christ to the Church and to all the uniting of *(Bride's name)* and *(Groom's name)* in holy marriage.

*(Groom to Bride):*

*(Bride's name)*, I give you this ring as a sign 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. **Amen.**

*(Bride to Groom):*

*(Groom's name)*, I give you this ring as a sign 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. **Amen.**

## PRAYER THROUGH MUSIC: THE SERVANT SONG

PRAYER OF BLESSING

*(Name)*

## BENEDICTION

*Pastor Larry:* The blessing of Almighty God: Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

**People:** **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*Pastor:* Go forth into the world in Peace.  
Be of good courage.  
Hold fast to that which is good.  
Strengthen the faint-hearted.  
Support the weak.  
Help the afflicted.  
Honor all people.  
Love and serve the Lord,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** **Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.**

## DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE

## RECESSIONAL

*Prelude to Te Deum*

*Marc-Antoine Charpentier*

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*After the Bride and Groom and Pastor have recessed, you are invited to leave out the main entrance and greet the newly married couple in the narthex (entry way).*

Officiating:  
Rev. Lawrence A. Moffet

Ushers:  
*(List of names)*

Program Distributor:  
*(Name(s))*

Witnesses:  
The Congregation

Marriage license signers:  
*(Names)*

Readers:  
*(Names)*

Musicians:  
*(Names)*

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