

*A
Celebration of
Marriage*

A PORTRAIT OF GOD'S REDEEMING,
COVENANT-KEEPING LOVE

THE WEDDING OF

*Nancy Leigh DeMoss
and
Robert David Wolgemuth*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2015

COLLEGE CHURCH
WHEATON, ILLINOIS



Our dear family and friends,

Your presence today is an honor and a blessing as we are united in the covenant of marriage. Thank you for being here.

The Lord alone is to be praised for His kind Providence in bringing our lives together.

Our earnest desire is that this wedding and the marriage that follows would showcase the loveliness of Christ. In a day when marriage is on the witness stand—both in the culture and in the church—we consider it a great privilege and duty to proclaim the order, the goodness, and the beauty of marriage as God ordained it so long ago.

We have prayed that this day would bring honor to Christ as together we rehearse the great gospel story of redemption; that love for our Savior would burn more brightly in each of our hearts; that marriages would be strengthened; and that we would all experience heightened anticipation for the return of our heavenly Bridegroom.

May God grant a fresh sense of wonder and awe as we contemplate His magnificent, covenant-keeping love. May Christ be magnified through our humble, grateful response to our majestic, holy Savior-Shepherd-King. And may He use our lives and marriages for the advancement of His great Kingdom.

Nancy and Robert

*We request that our guests not take photos during the service.
Photographs will be available on Facebook shortly after the wedding.*

Order of Service

We Gather in His Name

Please enter in a spirit of worship and prayer,
asking for and anticipating the Lord's sweet presence
and blessing on this service.

PRELUDE John Innes, organ and piano
Deborah Klemme, violin

CHIMES "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Luke Schrader, grandson of the groom
Austin Wilson, friend and business
associate of the groom

RINGING OF THE BELLS *Special young girls in Nancy's life*

Chálissa and Söl Fehsenfeld
Addie and Ellie Paulus
Annalise and Eliya Paulus
Abby, Kate, and Bri McLaurin
Mia Tanner

We Worship Christ and Exalt His Word

* **DOXOLOGY** Deborah Klemme, violin
Patrick D'Arcy, pipes
John Innes, organ

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Thomas Ken, 1674

* *Please stand*

SCRIPTURE READING

I have loved you with an everlasting love. (Jeremiah 31:3)

*Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.
(Psalm 63:3)*

*I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness
and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. (Hosea 2:19)*

*For your Maker is your husband, the Lord of hosts is his name; and the
Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is
called. (Isaiah 54:5)*

*As the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
so shall your God rejoice over you. (Isaiah 62:5)*



*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves
has been born of God and knows God. (1 John 4:7)*

*Be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved
us and gave himself up for us. (Ephesians 5:1–2)*

We love because he first loved us. (1 John 4:19)

*God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died
for us. (Romans 5:8)*

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (1 John 4:11)

Love one another earnestly from a pure heart. (1 Peter 1:22)



*The voice of my beloved!
Behold, he comes,
leaping over the mountains,
bounding over the hills.*

My beloved speaks and says to me,

“Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away.

*For behold, the winter is past,
The rain is over and gone.*

The flowers appear on the earth;

The time of singing has come. . . .

Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away!

*“My beloved is mine, and I am his.
He brought me to the banqueting house,
And his banner over me was love.”*

*“You are altogether beautiful, my love,
And there is no flaw in you.”*

“Behold, you are beautiful, my beloved, truly delightful.”

*“You have captivated my heart,
My sister, my bride;
You have captivated my heart
With one glance of your eyes.”*

“I am my beloved’s, and his desire is for me.”

Selected from *The Song of Songs*



This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. . . .

The husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her. . . . Let each one of you love his wife as himself. . . . And let the wife see that she respects her husband. (Ephesians 5:22–33)



Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: “Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give Him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” . . .

Then the angel said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!’” (Revelation 19:6–9)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. . . . I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

One of the seven angels . . . came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. (Revelation 21:1-2, 9-11)



"Behold, I am coming soon! . . . I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End." The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life. He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Come, Lord Jesus. (Revelation 22:12-21)

Make haste, my beloved. (Song of Songs 8:14)



To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood . . . to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (Revelation 1:5-6)

Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus with love incorruptible. (Ephesians 6:24)

Amen.

* CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

Crown Him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon His throne.
Hark! How the heav'nly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of love,
behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his wond'ring eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,
Who rose victorious in the strife
for those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of heav'n,
One with the Father known,
One with the Spirit through Him giv'n
from yonder glorious throne!
To Thee be endless praise, for Thou for us hast died;
Be Thou, O Lord, thro' endless days adored and magnified.

Matthew Bridges, 1852

We Seek His Blessing

WELCOME

Dr. William L. Hogan
Pastor Emeritus
Independent Presbyterian Church (PCA)
Memphis, Tennessee

Dr. Hogan was Nancy's pastor when she was in high school. By his faithful example, he gave her a love for expository preaching of the Word.

INVOCATION

Dr. George Grant
Pastor
Parish Presbyterian Church (PCA)
Franklin, Tennessee

* **CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** *This hymn has been Nancy and Robert's prayer throughout their courtship.*

Savior, like a shepherd lead us; much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us; for our use Thy folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

We are Thine, do Thou befriend us; be the guardian of our way;
Keep Thy flock, from sin defend us; seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Hear, oh, hear us when we pray.

Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse and power to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to Thee.

Early let us seek Thy favor, early let us do Thy will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with Thy love our bosoms fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still.

Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1836

Kristyn Getty, vocal
Keith Getty, piano
Deborah Klemme, violin
Patrick D'Arcy, pipes

We Affirm God's Purpose for Marriage

* **SCRIPTURE READING** Dr. Ray Ortlund

Minister: Hear the Word of the Lord.

The husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the Word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and blameless.

In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body.

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. (Ephesians 5:23–32)

People: This is the Word of the Lord.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Marriage: A Picture of Redemption

Dr. Ray Ortlund
Pastor, Immanuel Church
Nashville, Tennessee

*We Witness the Marriage Covenant
of Nancy and Robert*

1 CORINTHIANS 13 Robert Wolgemuth

PROCESSIONAL “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”
(arr. Innes/Kuite)

John Innes, organ
College Church Brass

The Bride Is Led to Her Groom (please remain seated)

*Nancy is escorted by her
brother Mark DeMoss, also a long-time
friend of the groom.*

*With joy and gladness they are led along
as they enter the palace of the king.
(Psalm 45:15)*

The Groom Comes to Take His Bride

From heaven He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.

Samuel J. Stone, 1866

* CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blessed,
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.

Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began;
Father love is reigning o'er us, brother love binds man to man.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us Sunward in the triumph song of life.

Henry J. van Dyke, 1907

DECLARATION OF INTENT

Robert, will you have Nancy to be your wife; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love her, hold and 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?

Nancy, will you have Robert to be your husband; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love him, hold and 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?

Will all of you witnessing these promises do all in your power to uphold and affirm Nancy and Robert in their marriage?

LIFTING OF THE VEIL

*“Behold, you are beautiful!
Your eyes are doves behind your veil.”*
(Song of Songs 4:1)

*Only through Christ is it taken away. . . .
We all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord,
are being transformed into the same image. . . .*
(2 Corinthians 3:14–18)

CHARGE TO THE BRIDE AND GROOM Dr. William L. Hogan

EXCHANGE OF VOWS

In the presence of God and these witnesses, by a holy covenant, I, Robert, take you, Nancy, to be my wife. I joyfully and gratefully receive you as God's gracious gift.

I promise to love you, to cherish you, and to shepherd you, as Christ loves, cherishes, and shepherds His church. I promise to give myself for you, as Christ laid down His life for us. I promise to wash you with the Word, so as to present you holy and blameless before our Lord.

With sincerity of heart, and in dependence on the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, I pledge to you my tenderness, my faithfulness, my friendship, my affection, and my love as long as we both shall live.



In the presence of God and these witnesses, by a holy covenant, I, Nancy, take you, Robert, to be my husband. I joyfully and gratefully receive you as God's gracious gift.

I promise to respect you, to reverence you, and to submit to you in everything as my earthly head, as the church respects, reverences, and submits to Christ, her eternal Head. As your helper, I will love, comfort, and support you, and will serve the Lord by your side.

With sincerity of heart, and in dependence on the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, I pledge to you my tenderness, my faithfulness, my friendship, my affection, and my love as long as we both shall live.

EXCHANGE OF RINGS

This ring I give you, as a token of our covenant before God and of my promise to be your faithful and loving husband/wife. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, amen.

PRONOUNCEMENT OF MARRIAGE

By the authority committed unto me as a minister of the church of Christ, I declare that Robert and Nancy are now husband and wife, according to the ordinance of God. *“So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate”* (Matthew 19:6). In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, amen.

We Offer Prayers and Thanksgiving

PRAYER OFFERED BY THE CONGREGATION *(in unison)*

Holy Father, we give You thanks for Your kind providence in bringing Nancy and Robert together. We have witnessed the vows they have made to each other in Your presence. Grant them daily grace to keep these vows. May they experience the reality of Your presence with them in all that lies ahead. May their marriage always display the loveliness of Christ and the wonder of Your great, redeeming love.

Use their marriage as an instrument to fit them and others for heaven. Keep them in Your hand, protect them from the evil one, grant them joy in their journey, make them fruitful for Your glory, and may Your peace rest upon them.

In the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, amen.

PRAYERS OFFERED BY FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Christopher and Julie Tassy
René and Deborah Fonseca
Jon and Missy Schrader
Mike and Gail Hyatt
Carolyn McCulley
Byron and Sue Paulus
Ray and Jani Ortlund

PRAYERS OFFERED BY NANCY AND ROBERT

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING Keith and Kristyn Getty

My heart is filled with thankfulness
To Him who bore my pain;
Who plumbed the depths of my disgrace
And gave me life again;
Who crushed my curse of sinfulness
And clothed me in His light
And wrote His law of righteousness
With pow'r upon my heart.

My heart is filled with thankfulness
To Him who walks beside;
Who floods my weaknesses with strength
And causes fears to fly;
Whose ev'ry promise is enough
For ev'ry step I take,
Sustaining me with arms of love
And crowning me with grace.

My heart is filled with thankfulness
To Him who reigns above,
Whose wisdom is my perfect peace,
Whose ev'ry thought is love.
For ev'ry day I have on earth
Is given by the King;
So I will give my life, my all,
To love and follow Him.

Words and music by
Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
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We Anticipate the Ultimate Wedding

* SCRIPTURE READING

Rev. Bill Elliff

Minister: Hear the Word of the Lord.

*“Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.
Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory,
for the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his Bride has made herself ready.”
(Revelation 19:6-7)*

People: This is the Word of the Lord.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD The Marriage of the Lamb

Rev. Bill Elliff
Pastor, The Summit Church (SBC)
North Little Rock, Arkansas

* CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall.
Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown Him Lord of all.

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace, and crown Him Lord of all.

Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball
To Him all majesty ascribe, and crown Him Lord of all.

Oh, that with yonder sacred throng, we at His feet may fall;
We'll join the everlasting song and crown Him Lord of all!

Edward Perronet (1779)
John Rippon (1787)

We Consecrate the New Marriage

THE KISS

*“Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth!
For your love is better than wine.”
(Song of Songs 1:2)*

CONGREGATIONAL BLESSING Romans 15:5–6 (*in unison*)

*May the God of endurance and encouragement
grant you to live in such harmony with one another,
in accord with Christ Jesus,
that together you may with one voice
glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

PASTORAL BLESSING Dr. William L. Hogan

PRESENTATION Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wolgemuth

RECESSIONAL “Now Thank We All Our God” “Marche Triomphale on ‘Nun Danke Alle Gott’” by Karg-Elert, arr. Olson

John Innes, organ
College Church Brass

INVITATION TO THE MARRIAGE SUPPER

*** BENEDICTION** Dr. William L. Hogan

*Now may the God of peace
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
the Great Shepherd of the sheep,
by the blood of the eternal covenant,
equip you with everything good that you may do his will,
working in us that which is pleasing in his sight,
through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.
(Hebrews 13:20–21)*

POSTLUDE John Innes, organ

In Loving Memory

Nancy and Robert are eager to acknowledge and honor the life of Bobbie Wolgemuth who, after a courageous and Christ-honoring journey with cancer, stepped into heaven in 2014. The impact of Bobbie's life and witness continues to resound in the hearts and memories of so many, especially her children and grandchildren.

Bobbie's tenacious love for God and His Word was contagious. Her shameless and enthusiastic witness for the Gospel of Jesus ushered many into a saving knowledge of His grace and forgiveness. Her unwavering affection for so many, including those of us gathered here today, indelibly marked and shaped us.

We are deeply grateful for the life and memory of this remarkable woman who has taken her rightful place among the mighty cloud of witnesses, cheering us on to lives of reverent worship and service to God.

Ushers

Del Fehsenfeld – Friend and ministry associate of the bride
Daniel Fonseca – Nephew of the bride
David Fonseca – Nephew of the bride
Nate McLaurin – Friend of the bride
Nate Paulus – Friend and ministry associate of the bride
Aaron Paulus – Friend and ministry associate of the bride
Jon Schrader – Son-in-law of the groom
Christopher Tassy – Son-in-law of the groom
Andrew Wolgemuth – Nephew and business associate of the groom
Erik Wolgemuth – Nephew and business associate of the groom
Mark Wolgemuth – Nephew of the groom
Rob Wolgemuth – Nephew of the groom

Heartfelt Thanks

Diane Stephen – College Church Events Manager
Michael Neises, Sandy Bixel – Coordinators
Leanna Shepard, Hannah Kurtz – Administrative Assistants
Jessie Klein – Personal Assistant of the Bride
Doug Kuite – Music Coordinator
College Church Brass – Tim Chipman and Nate Peterson (trumpet)
Sue Olson (horn), Doug Kuite (trombone)
Britton and Erika Felber – Photography by Britton
Nathan Bollinger, Chiree Bollinger, Graham Ward – Videographers
Jim and Gwen Phillip, Don Phillip – Phillip's Flowers
Dominick Scafidi – My Chef Catering, Inc.
Caleb Wiley, Tom Mathis, Phil Krause, Hugh Duncan – Audio
Tim Hollinger, Bryan VanHaitsma – Live Stream
Tom Jones, Kim Gwin – Program Design

Flowers

We have chosen to use roses and lilies for our wedding. In the Song of Songs, the bride says to her beloved: “*I am [merely] a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys*” (2:1). She considers herself a common, ordinary wild flower. To which the groom responds that he considers her to be extraordinary: “*As a lily among brambles, so is my love among the young women.*” Likewise, the bride admires her groom: “*As an apple tree among the trees of the forest, so is my beloved among the young men.*”

Colors

White symbolizes the righteousness of Christ, in which He clothes us and which alone makes us worthy to be His Bride. It also speaks to the purity of love and marriage, as ordained by God.

Christian marriage is a covenant—a solemn, binding agreement between two parties. The Hebrew word for covenant is *berith*, from the root meaning “to cut.” In the Old Testament, the making of a blood covenant involved “cutting” or dividing of animals into two parts. The two parties making a covenant would walk between the two parts from opposite ends and meet in the middle, where they would make their vow or pledge.

This ritual symbolized the need for a sacrifice to bring two parties together, and pointed to “the new covenant in My blood” which Jesus instituted through His death and resurrection.

Red reminds us of the blood of the covenant through which two parties become one. Through the blood of Christ shed on our behalf, we have been united with Him and are united with each other today.

The Marriage Supper

In the Old Testament, a ceremonial meal was often a part of the blood covenant. It foreshadowed the communion that New Testament believers share together as those who are in covenant with Christ, as well as the ultimate marriage supper of the Lamb described in Revelation 19.

We invite you to join us at a marriage supper following the wedding service and to share with us in the blessings of the covenant of grace which are ours through the blood of Christ.

The Cutting and Feeding of the Cake

The cutting of the cake symbolizes the union that results from the cutting of the covenant. As we cut pieces of the cake and feed it to each other, we are expressing that we have given our all to one another, and will care for each other as one flesh.

Snapshots of Nancy and Robert's Journey

Entry in Robert's journal (February 4, 2015)

Today, I am starting a new journal. The purpose is to chronicle what started with a 90-minute conversation with Nancy Leigh in Greg Thornton's office yesterday in Chicago. My request of Nancy was that we begin pursuing a friendship. She said "yes." My prayer is a simple one, "Savior, like a Shepherd lead us, much we need Your tender care." Only our Heavenly Father knows the outcome, but we trust in His tender care.

Email to Nancy from Pastor John Piper (February 12, 2015)

And the question becomes: Is that holy season of consecrated singleness coming to an end to be replaced by an equally holy consecrated season of marriage? God glorifies Himself in singleness and marriage in different ways. There are advantages singles have for the glory of Christ, and advantages married people have for the glory of Christ. . . . Which means that, after weighing with prayer and counsel all the factors, you choose one of these two holy ways as your heart dictates. That is how I see the Holy Spirit guiding. . . .

Neither you nor I can predict whether the challenges of remaining single or marrying will be the more sanctifying. They will be different. But which will be attended with greater sanctifying effect you can't see now. My theology says that the answer is: the one you choose in love for God. That is the meaning of Romans 8:28-29—All things will work for the good of conforming you to Christ.

Excerpt from letter Robert read to Nancy (May 2, 2015)

So, my precious Nancy Leigh . . . Will you marry me? Will you be my wife?

I pledge to love Jesus more than anything or anyone. You are next in line, God's remarkable gift to me. I promise to protect, honor and cherish you for the rest of our lives.

I love you.
Robert

Text from Robert to Nancy (May 27, 2015)

We are on the edge of our seats, anticipating what the Lord has for us. It will not all be easy, but it will all be good. We will not hold ourselves up as an example for others to follow, we will hold up Jesus and encourage others to follow Him. This will be our greatest delight.

Text from Nancy to Robert (August 16, 2015)

“But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God. . . .

“A man . . . is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man. For man was not made from woman, but woman from man. Neither was man created for woman, but woman for man. That is why a woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.

“Nevertheless, in the Lord woman is not independent of man nor man of woman; for as woman was made from man, so man is now born of woman. And all things are from God . . .” (1 Cor. 11:1–16).

So much mystery here, my beloved. So much I do not fully understand. But this I know: that I was created for you; that you will be my earthly head as Christ is your head; that we are not independent of each other; that together we draw our life and being and meaning from Him.

These truths are precious to me, as I know they are to you. I gladly embrace them; I wholeheartedly receive you as my head and will seek to reflect your worth and glory as together we seek to reflect the glory of our heavenly Husband and Head.

Text from Nancy to a friend (August 28, 2015)

There is much about Robert I didn’t know when I first began to sense that God had providentially ordained this relationship. Some thought I was crazy to believe that so quickly. All I knew was that I had great peace about continuing in the course of responding to his/His initiative. In the process, everything I have learned about Robert—his character, his heart, his habits, his responses—has only served to confirm what I sensed early on: that he is a wise, tender, selfless, kind, loving, true man of God.

For sure, he is a sinner, as is the woman he is marrying; our marriage will require much humility, grace, and prayer—as does every marriage. But I have no doubt that this will be a sweet, sanctifying, satisfying, and God-glorifying union. I am so grateful for the way He has shepherded my heart in all of this.

Dourte Family Hymn

(Robert's mother, Grace, was a Dourte)

God of our life, through all the circling years,
 We trust in Thee;
In all the past, through all our hopes and fears,
 Thy hand we see.
With each new day, when morning lifts the veil,
 We own Thy mercies, Lord, which never fail.

 God of the past, our times are in Thy hand;
 With us abide.
Lead us by faith to hope's true promised land;
 Be Thou our Guide.
With Thee to bless, the darkness shines as light,
 And faith's fair vision changes into sight.

God of the coming years, through paths unknown
 We follow Thee;
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone;
 Our Refuge be.
 Be Thou for us in life our daily Bread,
Our heart's true Home when all our years have sped.

Hugh T. Kerr, 1917

Art De Moss' Favorite Hymn

Jesus, I my cross have taken,
All to leave and follow Thee.
Destitute, despised, forsaken,
Thou from hence my all shall be.
Perish every fond ambition,
All I've sought or hoped or known.
Yet how rich is my condition!
God and Heaven are still mine own.

Let the world despise and leave me;
They have left my Savior, too.
Human hearts and looks deceive me;
Thou art not, like them, untrue.
And while Thou shalt smile upon me,
God of wisdom, love and might,
Foes may hate and friends disown me;
Show Thy face, and all is bright.

Man may trouble and distress me,
'Twill but drive me to Thy breast.
Life with trials hard may press me;
Heaven will bring me sweeter rest.
Oh, 'tis not in grief to harm me
While Thy love is left to me;
Oh, 'twere not in joy to charm me,
Were that joy unmixed with Thee.

Haste then on from grace to glory,
Armed by faith, and winged by prayer,
Heaven's eternal day's before thee,
God's own hand shall guide thee there.
Soon shall close thy earthly mission,
Swift shall pass thy pilgrim days;
Hope soon change to glad fruition,
Faith to sight, and prayer to praise.

Henry F. Lyte, 1824

Reflections on Christian Marriage

A MOMENTARY GIFT

So it is with marriage. It is a momentary gift. It may last a lifetime, or it may be snatched away on the honeymoon. Either way, it is short. It may have many bright days, or it may be covered with clouds. If we make secondary things primary, we will be embittered at the sorrows we must face. But if we set our face to make of marriage mainly what God designed it to be, no sorrows and calamities can stand in our way. Every one of them will be, not an obstacle to success, but a way to succeed. The beauty of the covenant-keeping love between Christ and his church shines brightest when nothing but Christ can sustain it.

Very soon the shadow will give way to Reality. The partial will pass into the Perfect. The foretaste will lead to the Banquet. The troubled path will end in Paradise. A hundred candle-lit evenings will come to their consummation in the marriage supper of the Lamb. And this momentary marriage will be swallowed up by Life. Christ will be all and in all. And the purpose of marriage will be complete.

To that end may God give us eyes to see what matters most in this life. May the Holy Spirit, whom he sends, make his crucified and risen Son the supreme Treasure of our lives. And may that Treasure so satisfy our souls that the root of every marriage-destroying impulse is severed. And may the marriage-watching world be captivated by the covenant-keeping love of Christ.

John Piper

This Momentary Marriage

TO LOVE AND TO FOLLOW

To love therefore is the husband's part; to follow pertains to the wife. If then each one contributes his own part, all stands firm.

From being loved, the wife too becomes loving; and from her being submissive, the husband becomes yielding. See how in nature it has been so ordered, that the one should love and the other obey.

Do not therefore, husband, because your wife is subject to you, act like a despot; nor because your husband loves you should you as a wife be puffed up. Let neither the husband's love cause pride in the wife, nor the wife's respect puff up the husband.

For this cause has God subjected her to you, O husband, that she may be loved all the more. For this cause He has made you to be loved, O wife, that you may more easily bear your role. Do not fear being a subject; for subjection to one that loves you has no hardship. Do not fear to love, for you have her respect.

John Chrysostom (c. 349–407)

Cited in *Held in Honor: Wisdom for
Your Marriage from Voices of the Past* by
Robert L. Plummer and Matthew D. Haste

A Prayer

*Offered by Dr. William Iverson
at the marriage of Arthur and Nancy DeMoss
November 30, 1957*

Our Father, we come in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ who showed the love of God as He died on the cross for sinners.

Even in the holiest of moments, we come confessing our weakness, our sin, our frailty, our rebellion. Lord, even as this occasion is clothed with such beauty, we come in the beautiful dress and glorious righteousness of Jesus Christ to ask Thee to sanctify this marriage that has been solemnized now with these vows.

We rejoice that this marriage is built upon the Word of God. That these two, as the wise men, are building their house upon the Rock of Thy Word. We thank Thee that not only the Word of God is beneath them, the promises of God support them, but a heavenly Father with all of His loving providence has guided them and brought them to this moment and will yet guide them until they meet in Thy presence.

We thank Thee that behind them there stands a cross where Christ died for them and poured out the very kind of love that they have for one another . . . the love of God shed abroad in their hearts by the Holy Ghost. We thank Thee that within them there dwells the Holy Spirit of God who has anointed them and prepared them one for the other and together makes them one that they may be vessels of grace and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

In this marriage, there is a ministry—a ministry of bringing children into the world. Grant them Thy blessings and replenishing this world with godly seeds. In this marriage there is a ministry of showing others the love of Christ through the love of the home. And as these two are dedicated to Thy service, we pray that they will be filled with the Holy Spirit to bring many to know and to love the Lord Jesus Christ, their Savior.

We thank Thee for the Spirit of God within them. And then, we want to thank Thee for the bridegroom Christ who will come again to receive them unto Himself, and then He will take His bride, the church, unto Himself. And may this constant hope of His coming renew them day by day in their everyday existence and walk and living together, knowing that their love should be as watchful and waitful and as complete as that which will be as Christ comes again.

So, we look for God above us, below us, behind us, within us, and with a glorious future. And may they walk from this place with all the blessings that God can bestow for the glory of His Son and by the grace of the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name, amen.

Oh, Christ, He Is the Fountain

Oh, Christ, He is the fountain,
The deep, sweet well of love!
The streams of earth I've tasted,
More deep I'll drink above:
There to an ocean fullness
His mercy doth expand;
And glory, glory dwelleth
In Immanuel's land.

Oh, I am my Beloved's,
And my Beloved's mine!
He brings a poor vile sinner
Into His "house of wine."
I stand upon His merit—
I know no other stand,
Not even where glory dwelleth
In Immanuel's land.

The Bride eyes not her garment,
But her dear Bridegroom's face;
I will not gaze at glory,
But on my King of grace;
Not at the crown He giveth,
But on His pierced hand.
The Lamb is all the glory
Of Immanuel's land.

Anne R. Cousin, 1857

A Final Word of Encouragement

A long-time favorite song of the Wolgemuth family is based on Psalm 23—"The Shepherd's Psalm." The opening line assures us: "Because the Lord is my Shepherd, I have everything I need."

It's true. If we are in Christ, we have everything we need. *Everything.*

At an early age, we both confessed our sins, repented at the feet of Jesus, received His gift of salvation, and committed our ways to Him. From that point, the Lord has been our Savior. Our Shepherd.

The image of the Good Shepherd has been a precious metaphor to us throughout our courtship. In calls, texts, and emails, we have frequently, gratefully referred to His enfolding Arms and care. As we begin a new season today, we are trusting our Shepherd to superintend, strengthen, and sustain our marriage.

We have prayed often and earnestly for those who would join us on this special day . . . for those in need of guidance, hope, or provision . . . those struggling with unfulfilled longings, fear, or doubt . . . those whose marriage may be in need of healing and restoration . . .

Whatever your need, our Good Shepherd longs to take you in His Arms, to strengthen and support you, sanctify you, and satisfy you deeply with His steadfast love.

He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. (Psalm 23:2-3)

Along the way, during our friendship and engagement, we have invited people—many of them strangers—to tell us how we can pray for them. More often than any other response, people will ask us to pray that they experience peace. And so we have asked the Lord Jesus to draw them to Himself, to give them peace . . . the kind of peace that "surpasses all understanding" (Philippians 4:7).

If you do not know this peace, if the Lord is not your Shepherd, we urge you to receive His free gift of salvation. Tell Him of your need for a Savior, confess your sin, receive His amazing grace, and become His very own child.

Welcome to the fold. You're going to love it here.

Robert and Nancy

