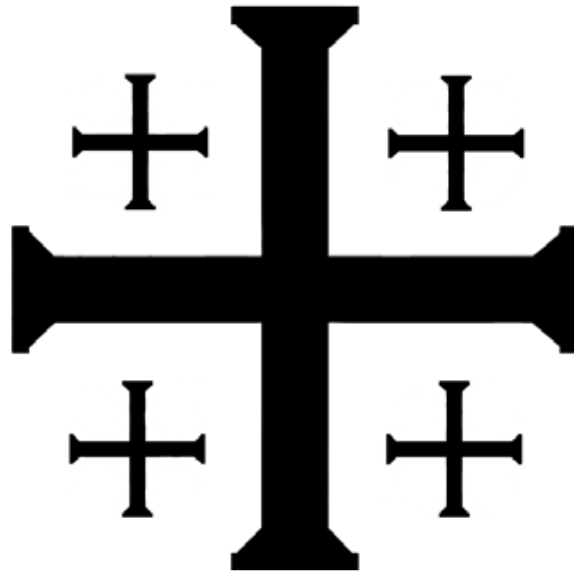


WITNESSING AND BLESSING OF A MARRIAGE  
AUBREY GARFIELD AND SARAH MUTH



SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2023  
THREE O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
ROYAL OAK, MI



## St. John's Welcome Statement

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Welcome! We are St. John's, a parish that invites you to be a part of our community and warmly embraces you when you do.

At St. John's, our history has taught us that accepting and embracing true diversity is challenging. As a result, we have come to claim a firm, undying commitment to inclusion. So here is our invitation to you: regardless of your cultural background, ethnicity, gender, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or heterosexual identity, economic status, physical or cognitive ability – you will not be labeled, singled out or excluded here. You will be welcomed, affirmed, embraced and celebrated! We will be better because you are here.

*Adopted by unanimous vote at St. John's Annual Meeting, January 31, 2016*

### **Everyone is Welcome! Everyone Belongs!**

#### **Welcome Newcomers!**

**Young Children – *with all their sounds and wiggles* – are very welcome in this church!**

If you are here for the first time, please help us to get to know you by signing our Guest Book (clipboard in the entry of the church) and/or filling out a yellow card found in each pew. We are so pleased that you are here and want to do everything we can to help you make the most of St. John's Episcopal Church and its resources for your spiritual journey.

All are welcome to communion, where we share one bread, one body. To facilitate this, our communion bread is all gluten free. All are welcome to St. John's programs and events.

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## Witnessing and Blessing of a Marriage

### Aubrey Garfield and Sarah Muth

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#### PRELUDE MUSIC

#### ENTRANCE MUSIC

**Turning Page** by *Sleeping at Last*

*The people stand as the procession enters.*

*When all are in place, the Presider continues.*

Dearly beloved, in the name of God and the Church we have come together today to witness and bless the joining together of Aubrey Garfield and Sarah Muth in Holy Matrimony.

The union of two people 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 gift of children and their nurture and knowledge and love of God. 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, Aubrey and Sarah now come to be joined.

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

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

#### DECLARATION OF INTENT

*The Presider then addresses each member of the couple.*

*Presider*     *Aubrey/Sarah*, 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?

*Answer*     **I will.**

*The couple faces the assembly, and the Presider asks the People*

Will all of you who are gathered here to witness these solemn vows do all in your power to uphold and honor this couple in their marriage?

*People*     **We will.**

Let us pray, then, that God will give them the strength to steadfastly uphold what they vow this day. Let us also pray for the generosity to support them in the commitment they undertake.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Presider*     The Lord be with you.

*People*     **And also with you.**

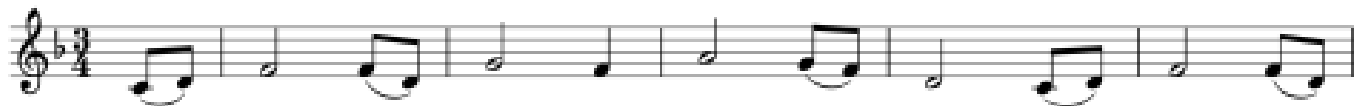
*Presider*     Let us pray.

O gracious and everlasting God, you have created humankind in your image: Look mercifully upon Aubrey and Sarah who come to you seeking your blessing, grant them so to love selflessly and live humbly, that they may be to one another and to the world a witness and sign of your never-failing love and care; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

## HEBREW SCRIPTURE

**Based on Ruth 1: 16-17**

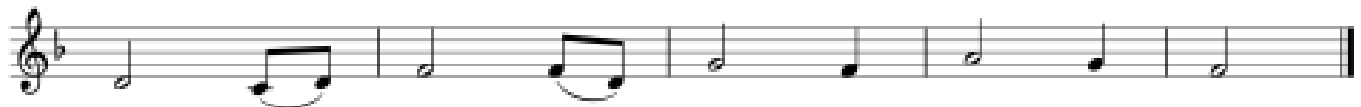
*The people remain standing and sing.*



I shall not leave from by your side; where you will  
 Your peo - ple, I shall call my own: flesh of my  
 And when at last you close your eyes, when an - gels  
 May God, who binds us heart to heart, a - bide with



live, I shall a - bide. Where you will go, I'll walk with  
 flesh, and bone of bone; and to your God I'll sing my  
 bid your soul to rise, my heart shall fly to heaven with  
 us, and ne - ver part. Though joy or pain may round us



you. Where you will sleep, I'll slum - ber, too.  
 praise, the One whose love shall fill our days.  
 you, for death can - not such love un - do.  
 roll, the love of God shall make us whole.

*The people are seated.*

**THE EPISTLE**

**1 John 4:7-16**

*Reader* A Reading from First John.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God

has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

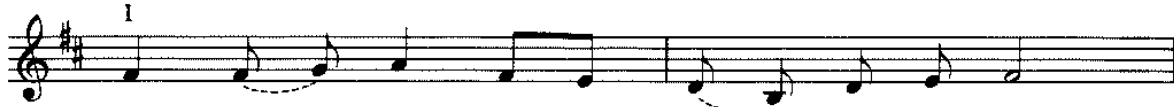
*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## GOSPEL HYMN

Seek ye first

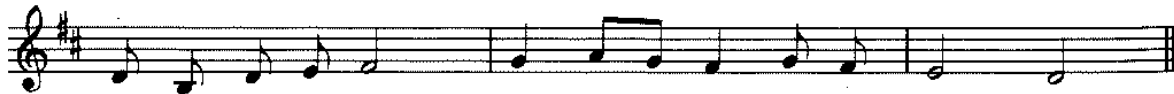
The Hymnal 1982, 711, vv. 1, 2



1 Seek ye — first the king - dom of God  
2 Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you,

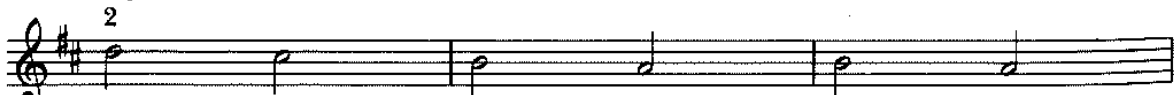


and its right - eous - ness, and all these things shall be  
seek, and ye shall find, knock, and the door shall be

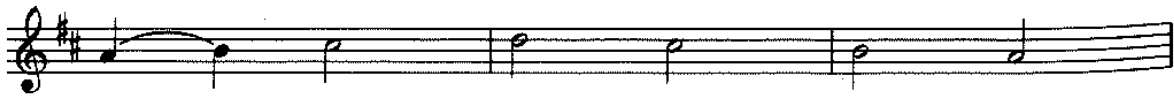


add - ed un - to you; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!  
o - pened un - to you; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

### *Refrain*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

## THE GOSPEL

John 15

*Deacon* †The Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to John  
*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

Jesus said to his disciples:

“I am the vine, you are the branches.

As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Abide in my love.

If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love,

just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love.

I have told you this so that my joy might be in you

and so that your joy might be complete.

This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.”

*Deacon* The Gospel of Christ.

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

*The people are seated.*

## HOMILY

The Rev. Beth Taylor

*A period of silence is kept.*

## THE MARRIAGE

*A New Zealand Prayer Book*

*The people remain seated. The couple stands alone, facing the clergy.*

*Presider* Aubrey and Sarah, you have come before God and the Church to make public your vows to one another and to ask God’s blessing.

*Each member of the couple, in turn, takes the hand of the other and says:*

*Aubrey/Sarah*, I take you to be my wife.

All that I have I offer you;

what you have to give I gladly receive;

wherever you go I will go.

You are my love.

God keep me true to you always

and you to me.

## BLESSING OF THE RINGS

*Presider* Let us pray.

†Bless, O God, these rings as signs of the enduring covenant Aubrey and Sarah have made with each other, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
***Amen.***

*The couple place the rings on the fingers of one another, first the one, then the other, saying:*

*Aubrey/ Sarah, 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.*

## PRONOUNCEMENT

*Presider* Now that Aubrey and Sarah have given themselves to each other by solemn vows of love and fidelity in the presence of God and the Church, I now pronounce that they are wed to one another in the name of the †Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and bound to one another as long as they both shall live.  
Those whom God has joined together, let no one put asunder. ***Amen.***

*The couple kneels on wedding cushions.*

## THE PRAYERS

*Deacon* Let us pray for their life together and for the concerns of this community. For Aubrey and Sarah, seeking your blessing and the blessing of your holy people; Lord, in your mercy

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Deacon* For a spirit of loving-kindness to shelter them all their days; Lord, in your mercy

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Deacon* For friends to support them and communities to enfold them; Lord, in your mercy

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Deacon* For peace in their home and love in their family; Lord, in your mercy

*People* **Hear our prayer.**



*Deacon* Bestow on them, if it is your will, the gift and heritage of children, and the grace to bring them up to know you, to love you, and to serve you.  
Lord, in your mercy

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Deacon* Give them grace and honesty to recognize and acknowledge their fault when they hurt each other, and the humility to seek each other's forgiveness and yours; Lord, in your mercy

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Deacon* For the strength to keep our vows and commitments; Lord, in your goodness

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Deacon* For communion with all who have died, especially those whom we remember this day: Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Deacon* Grant that all who have witnessed these vows may find their lives strengthened and their own loyalties confirmed.

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Presider* Giver of every gift, source of all goodness, hear the prayers we bring before you for Aubrey and Sarah, who seek your blessing this day. Give them a share in the fullness of life that Christ promised, who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.

***Amen.***

## THE PEACE

*Presider* Family and friends, please join me in welcoming the couple joined here in marriage. Aubrey and Sarah, you may share a kiss as a symbol of your commitment and marriage.

*The Presider bids the Peace to the people.*

*Presider* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

*The people greet one another and exchange peace in the name of Christ.*

# GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OFFERTORY MUSIC

From all that dwell below the skies (Praise God)

The Hymnal 1982, 380

*Oblations of bread and wine are brought forward to the altar.*

1 From all that dwell be - low the skies let  
2 E - ter - nal are thy mer - cies, Lord, and  
\*3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise

the Cre - a - tor's praise a - rise! Let the Re - deem - er's  
truth e - ter - nal is thy word: thy praise shall sound from  
him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye

Name be sung through ev - ery land, by ev - ery tongue!  
shore to shore till suns shall rise and set no more.  
heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), para. of Psalm 117. St. 3, Thomas Ken (1637-1711)

Music: *Old 100th*, melody from *Pseaumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?)

# THE HOLY EUCHARIST

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*The people stand.*

*Presider* God be with you.

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

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.  
**Glory to you for ever and ever.**

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.  
**By your will they were created and have their being.**

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.  
**Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

**By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS

*All* **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**†Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The Presider continues*

And so, God of all, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

**We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; Lord God of our Mothers: God of Sarah, Rebecca, Leah and Rachel; God of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us.

Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal.

Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

**Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Accept these prayers and praises, O God, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN!**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

*All*        **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.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD/FRACTION ANTHEM

*Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

*Presider*    These are the gifts of God.

*People*       **And we are the people of God.**

*Presider*    And in union and solidarity with your faithful people who are not able to be present at this table, we pray together.

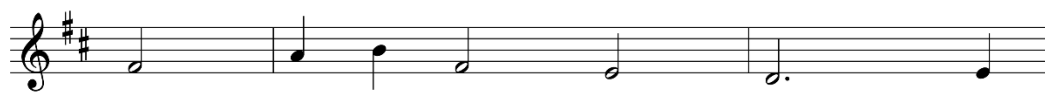
*People*       **May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.**

*This is Christ's table, and Christ is our host at this feast. Everyone who comes to the altar seeking Christ will be welcomed. The wafers are gluten free.*

# COMMUNION HYMN

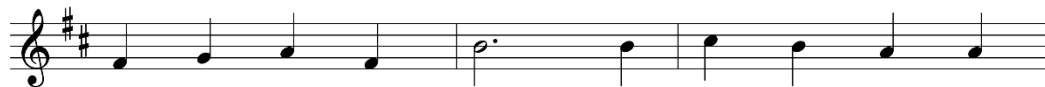
## My song is love unknown

The Hymnal 1982, 458, vv. 1, 2, 6, 7



1. My song is love un - known, My  
2. He came from his blest throne, Sal -

6. In life, no house, no home My  
7. Here might I stay and sing, No



Sav - ior's love for me, Love to the love - less  
va - tion to be - stow, But all made strange, and

Lord on earth might have; In death, no friend - ly  
sto - ry so di - vine; Nev - er was love, dear



shown That they might love - ly be. O  
none The longed - for Christ would know. But

tomb But what a stran - ger gave. What  
King, Nev - er was grief like thine. This



who am I That for my sake My  
O my friend, My friend in - deed, Who

may I say? Heav'n was his home; But  
is my friend, In whose sweet praise I



Lord shall take Frail flesh, and die?  
at my need His life did spend.

mine the tomb Where - in he lay.  
all my days Could glad - ly spend.

Text: Samuel Crossman, c.1624-1683  
Tune: LOVE UNKNOWN, 6 6 6 6 4 4 4 4; John Ireland, 1879-1962, © John Ireland Trust

## BLESSING OF THE COUPLE

*The people stand. As the couple joins hands facing each other, the Presider invokes God's blessing upon them, saying:*

*Presider* Let us pray.

Most gracious God, we praise you for the tender mercy and unfailing care and for the great joy and comfort bestowed upon us in the gift of human love. Send your blessing upon these your servants, Aubrey and Sarah, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and in grace, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace.

And may †God the Creator, the Christ and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you, and keep you in steadfast love. ***Amen.***

## DISMISSAL

*Deacon* Let us go forth to love and serve the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*The people remain standing for the procession.*

## RECESSIONAL

## **Altar Thanksgivings**

The flowers on the altar are given by  
**Aubrey and Sarah**  
in thanksgiving for their marriage

## **MINISTERS OF TODAY'S SERVICE**

<b>Couple</b>	Aubrey Garfield and Sarah Muth
<b>Presider</b>	The Rev. Beth Taylor
<b>Deacon</b>	The Rev. Gerardo Aponte-Safe
<b>Organist and Pianist</b>	Bob Mervak
<b>Violin</b>	Cheri Whalen
<b>Reader</b>	Bruce Robson
<b>Oblation Bearers</b>	Joyce Morey, Barbara Heath
<b>Tech Team</b>	Laurie McLaughlin, Chris Bosley
<b>Crucifer/Acolytes</b>	Carol Aaron, Dan Martin, Kevin McLogan
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Maryann LeComb, Kathy Stricker
<b>Bread baker</b>	Linda Watkins
<b>Ushers</b>	Veronica Griffith, Cindy Fellner



### **St. John's Episcopal Church**

26998 Woodward Avenue, Royal Oak, Michigan 48067

248-546-1255    [stjohnsroyaloak.org](http://stjohnsroyaloak.org)

**Everyone is Welcome! Everyone Belongs!**