

Sara Spears & Eric Payette Wedding ~ June 4, 2010 ~ A homily preached by
The Rev'd Erl G. Purnell at Old St. Andrew's Church, Bloomfield, CT

On Marriage (Kahlil Gilbran); 1st Corinthians 13.1-13; Mark 10.6-9, 13-16

What a pleasure and joy to be with you—Sara and Eric—on this your wedding day. You've invited all of us—family and friends—to celebrate with you and we've just promised to “do all in our power to uphold” you both in your marriage.

I must say, the marriage service is deeply imbedded in the psyche of all of us. *“Dearly beloved: We have come together in the presence of God...”* We have an idea of what a wedding should look and feel like. We know well Wagner's *Bridal Chorus* processional and Mendelssohn's *Wedding March*, we cherish Paul's admonition to the Corinthians that *“Love is patient; love is kind...”*, and Jesus' teaching that *“the two shall become one flesh”* summarizes all that this ceremony represents.

Likewise, who hasn't marveled at the 19th Century Lebanese-American Kahlil Gilbran's magnificent insight into the nature of marriage we just heard—*“You were born together, and together you shall be forevermore. You shall be together when white wings of death scatter your days. Aye, you shall be together even in the silent memory of God.”* Later, we'll be blessed with Noel Paul Stookey's lovely, faith-filled *The Wedding Song* that he wrote and performed at his friend Peter Yarrow's wedding in 1971—*“Oh the marriage of your spirits here has caused Him to remain; For whenever two or more of you are gathered in His name, There is Love. There is Love.”*

Sara. Eric. The blessing of your love is palpable. It fills your hearts and it fills this place. My deepest wish for you both is to be wasteful is giving away that love; in giving it to each other constantly and to your family and friends. But also, and I cannot emphasize this enough, please share your love with those less fortunate than you—the poor, the disadvantaged, outcasts, the handicapped, people who are troubled.

As a reminder of the promises you're making to each other and of this celebration, keep a copy of the thoughts shared today in song and word next to your bed. Read them to each other from time to time and return in spirit to these precious moments. Tell the story of today and relive the wonder and promise of marriage as you know it right now.

Amen.