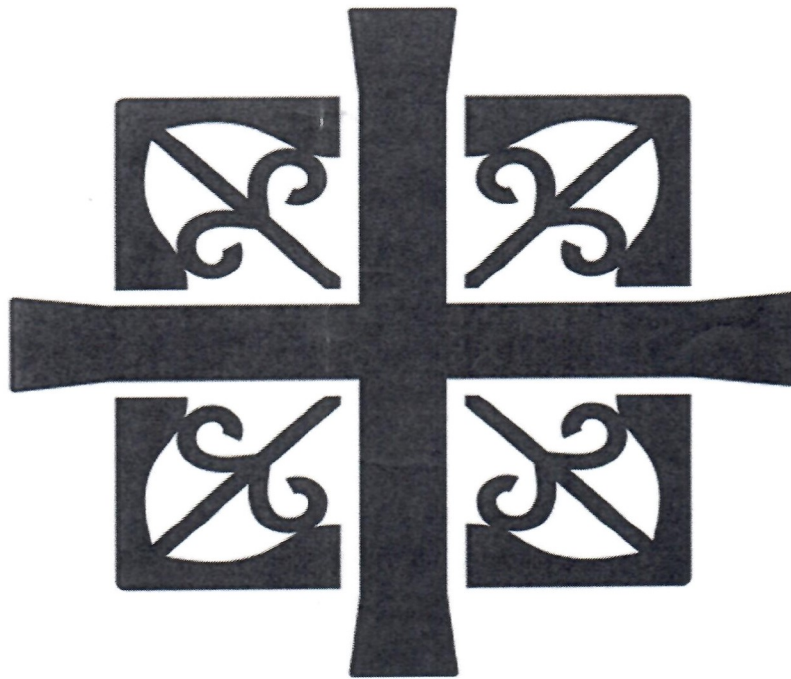


The Celebration and Blessing of the Marriage of
Keegan Trousdale Grace
&
Leon Thomas Straus



Saturday, October 18, 2025
at Four O'clock in the Afternoon

1840s Plaza
29 South Front Street ~ Baltimore, Maryland

The Invitation to Worship

Following the Presider's remarks, honored guests will be seated. You will be invited to stand when Keegan processes.

Remaining standing as you are able.

Presider: We have come together to witness and bless the promises of Keegan Trousdale Grace and Leon Thomas Straus in marriage; to share with them in their happiness and in their hopes for the future.

Marriage involves caring and giving. It involves learning to share one's life with another person, forgiving as Christ forgives; enjoying the love and meaning which can be found together. It involves facing together whatever adversity may arise.

Here before God, Keegan and Leon wish to pledge their love for each other and their desire to spend their lives together.

Welcome

Presider: Keegan and Leon, we welcome you.
We are glad to join with you
in the celebration of your marriage,
to witness your vows, to pray with you,
and to wish you joy in your life together.

All: **God of love, we thank you for the gift of marriage and for the joy it brings. Bless us as we share in this wedding. We thank you for the love which has brought Keegan and Leon to each other and for their desire to share that love for the rest of their lives. Amen.**

The congregation may be seated. The Witnesses & Celebrants remain standing.

The Declarations

Presider: Keegan, will you take Leon to be your husband? Will you share his joys and ease his burdens? Will you be honest with him, and be faithful to him always, as long as you both live?

Keegan: I will, with God's help.

Presider: Leon, will you take Keegan to be your partner? Will you share their joys and ease their burdens? Will you be honest with them, and be faith to them always, as long as you both live?

Leon: I will, with God's help.

Affirmation *Speaking to the witnesses, the Presider says*

Presider: Are you willing to strengthen this marriage by upholding both Keegan and Leon
 with your love and concern?

Witnesses: We are.

Then speaking to the whole congregation, the Presider asks

Presider: Will you, their friends and family, do all in your power to support this couple
 now, and in the years ahead?

All: **We will.**

The Witnesses & Celebrants may be seated.

Ministry of the Word

Reader: A reading from The Song of Solomon 2.10-13; 8.6-7

Cathy Grace

My beloved speaks and says to me:

"Arise, my love, my fair one,
 and come away;

for now the winter is past,
 the rain is over and gone.

The flowers appear on the earth;
 the time of singing has come,
and the voice of the turtledove
 is heard in our land.

The fig tree puts forth its figs,
 and the vines are in blossom;
 they give forth fragrance.

Arise, my love, my fair one,
 and come away.

Set me as a seal upon your heart,
 as a seal upon your arm;

for love is strong as death,
 passion fierce as the grave.

Its flashes are flashes of fire,
 a raging flame.

Many waters cannot quench love,
 neither can floods drown it.

If one offered for love
 all the wealth of his house,
 it would be utterly scorned.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Reader: Please join me in reading Psalm 67 responsively
by whole verse.

Susan Straus

- 1 May God be merciful to us and bless us, *
show us the light of his countenance and come to us.
- 2 **Let your ways be known upon earth, ***
your saving health among all nations.
- 3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.
- 4 **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, ***
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.
- 5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.
- 6 **The earth has brought forth her increase; ***
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.
- 7 May God give us his blessing, *
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

The Homily

The Rev. Sarah D. Odderstol

The Marriage *The Celebrants and Witnesses stand. The Celebrants face each other.*

Leon takes Keegan's right hand in his right hand and says

Leon: Keegan, I take you as my partner, to be with you whatever happens to us.
In prosperity and in hardship, in health and in sickness,
in sorrow and in joy, I will love, protect, and serve you
as long as we live. This I vow before God.

The Celebrants loose hands. Keegan takes Leon's right hand in their right hand and says

Keegan: Leon, I take you as my husband to be with you whatever happens to us.
In prosperity and in hardship, in health and in sickness,
in sorrow and in joy, I will love, protect, and serve you
as long as we live. This I vow before God.

The Celebrants loose hands.

The Rings *The Presider receives the rings and blesses them saying*

Presider Eternal God, bless these rings as symbols of the love and trust
between Keegan and Leon.

In turn, each Celebrant says

Celebrant This ring is a token of my faithfulness and love,
and a symbol that all I have I share with you.

The Pronouncement *The Presider speaks to the couple saying*

Presider: Keegan and Leon, you have declared the love you have for each other and your hopes for the future. You have made promises to each other, and have symbolized them by the joining of hands and the giving of rings.
Keegan and Leon you are now united in marriage.

God's Blessing and Guidance

Presider: As spring unfolds the dream of the earth,
May you bring each other's hearts to birth.

As the ocean finds calm in view of land,
May you love the gaze of each other's mind.

As the wind arises free and wild,
May nothing negative control your lives.

As kindly as moonlight might search the dark,
So gentle may you be when light grows scarce.

As surprised as the silence that music opens,
May your words for each other be touched with reverence.

As warmly as the air draws in the light,
May you welcome each other's every gift.

As elegant as dream absorbing the night,
May sleep find you clear of anger and hurt.

As twilight harvests all the day's color,
May love bring you home to each other.

"For Marriage" by John O'Donahue found in To Bless the Space Between Us

May the blessing of God hold you fast
in God's loving embrace.

The Congregations stands as they are able.

Blessing and Dismissal

Presider: I present to you Leon Straus and Keegan Grace-Straus – united in marriage and blessed by God.

Life is short and we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God, Creator, Savior, and Giver of Life, be with you all, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

Presider: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Wedding Party departs to thunderous applause!

You are invited to proceed to Cocktail Hour behind you and to the left. A raffle will be held for some of Leon's home brewed beer. The proceeds will go to the scholarship fund set up in Keegan's mother's name.

Service Participants & Family Members

Celebrants	Keegan Grace Leon Straus
Presider	The Rev. Sarah D. Odderstol Rector, Grace Episcopal Church - Silver Spring, Maryland
Bridal Party ~ Witnesses	Abigail Grace – Matron of Honor Geethika Koppisetty – Bridesmaid Bethany Straus – Bridesmaid Ryan Washington – Bridesman
Groom’s Party ~ Witnesses	Corey Matlak – Best Man Andrew Meushaw – Groomsman Andam Santoroski – Groomsman
Readers	Cathy Grace – Grandmother of the Bride Susan Straus – Mother of the Groom
Family of the Bride	Dr. Cathy and Mr. Charles Grace, Grandparents Mr. Whitney W.F. Grace and Mr. Dan Kohn Father and Step-Father Mrs. Lee Anne Grace Barnes, Mother Dr. Abigail Grace and Mr. Alden LeClair Sister and Brother-in-law
Family of the Groom	Mr. Richard Straus and Ms. Susan Straus, Parents Ms. Bethany Straus, Sister Ms. Addie Straus and Mr. Brandon Johnson Sister and Brother-in-law