

**“This Is Your Song”**

Psalm 33:1-5; 20-22

The Marriage of Stephen Blackwell and Roberta Rothfuss

13 March 2010 ❖ St. John's, Depew ❖ 1:30 PM

✠ In Nomine Jesu ✠

My dear friends, Steve and Berta on this day of **JOY!**

A wedding wouldn't feel quite complete without the right music would it? Just think about the significance of music in your own preparations for a moment, you scanned through music with Lois and Brad, you considered all kinds of popular music for your dance at the reception. Without doubt, Singing and making music are an important part of this day and contribute greatly to the beauty of this celebration. But you know, I am going to suggest that the greatest song of all of them is the first reading you selected today. this Psalm from God's Word is “Your Song” and it is the truth and message found therein that you can carry with you from this day forward.

Now, there is a lot of stuff we can unpack in the eight verses you selected, but I specifically want to draw your attention to two significant points :

The first is that of **joy**. *Sing Joyfully to the Lord; sing to him a new Song*, says the Psalmist. Now, maybe your hearts are filled with joy because the day has finally arrived and you have the opportunity to publically profess your love for each other, or maybe your hearts are filled with joy because you can finally celebrate after months and months of planning and preparing, or maybe your joyful simply because never again do you have to hunt down delinquent invitations for a wedding... Of course, I wouldn't know anything about that.

I am sure those three examples only scratch the surface, indeed there are lots of things to be joyful about! However, there isn't anything more significant than the reality of God's blessing and promise to you as you begin your lives together. The God who once established marriage in the Garden of Eden, still establishes marriages. And what this means, is that today, your wedding day, is the result of God's grace and love for each of you, It is a result of his recognition of the gift you are to each other and it a result of his awareness for your deep need for companionship. God has given you to each other and because of that he

promises to bless and support you in this life long commitment of love. The Psalmist cries out, SING joyfully to the Lord and likewise, today and in all your days... after all the joy doesn't have to end today. Sing joyfully to the Lord. In faith, sing to him with joy in your hearts each day for his presence in your lives and for the gift the two of you are to each other;

The second and final point for consideration is that of **hope**. As you probably already know, the fairy tale effect of today ends after today. Yes, the realities of life are sure to once again set in. Pressures, personalities, work schedules, moods, wrongdoings, sinfulness and on and on and on! These kinds of things are sure to invade your marital space. At times your marriage may feel more like a rollercoaster ride than a love filled relationship. There is no denying that it takes work and nobody ever said it's easy

Now, as true as this may be, however, it doesn't ever mean that your marriages is hopeless. There is always a solution and the solution comes from Christ Jesus himself– the bridegroom. You see, humankind's relationship with God was rocky and people were separated. – No surprise, after all, people are flawed and sinful from birth. But the Father didn't give up and the Son didn't turn his back on his bride. No, the Son stepped in and took the imperfection and sin of the bride upon himself, he suffered, he died and of course, eventually burst from the grave on the third day. All this he did to restore a relationship that was in trouble! Because of a Father grace and mercy and the passion of the only Son from heaven, fallen and flawed sinners are indeed restored, showered with grace, love, forgiveness, and new life– day after day.

Steve and Berta. you are recipients of that unconditional love and knit together with Christ through all eternity! What wonderful words of hope for you today and in the future! Likewise, what wonderful words of hope for you as you begin your lives together. Living in the power of the Holy Spirit, and joined to Christ, the two of you are given the ability to model Jesus' love. By the grace and blessings you receive from Him, you can keep on loving each other– even when times are rough. You can share a forgiving love because you have been forgiven. And you work through the difficulties and frustrations that obscure your vision in a compassionate way.

In today's society, couples who grew in Christians homes are choosing to ignore these vital marital ingredient. But today you are inviting

Christ into your relationship and what a hope filled blessing it is when you build your marriage on solid foundation of Jesus Christ. Undeniably, It is, Christ love and forgiveness and His presence in your marriage that will enable you to keep on going long after so many others have given up and thrown in the towel! The Psalmist cries, **Wait in hope for the Lord, he is our help and our shield in him our hearts rejoice... may you're your unfailing love rest upon us even as we put our hope in you.**

Steve and Berta, you have hope in the Lord Jesus and he is your help and shield. The two of you have been touched by his unconditional love, and because of that you can share that love with each other— NO MATTER THE CIRCUMSTANCE!

A wedding isn't quite complete without the right music is it.

Steve and Berta, my dear friends, THIS is your Song. May your days as husband and wife be blessed, filled with joy and steadfast in hope! God in Christ is yours and His love and forgiveness is for the two of you to share... And that is REALLY something to SING about!

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.



