

## *The BLESSING* *of the HOME*

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless Amanda and Lee who live here with the gift of your love; and grant that they may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives they touch. May they grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen them; and preserve them in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and for ever. Let the mighty power of the Holy God be present in this place to banish from it every unclean spirit, to cleanse it from every residue of evil, and to make it a secure habitation for those who dwell in it; in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Presented by the Rev. Dr. John Wells Warren upon the Celebration and Blessing of the Home of Amanda and Lee Borden, 3178 Dark Corners Road, Tallassee, Alabama, on Saturday, December 10, in the Year of Our Lord 2016.*



## **The Blessing of the Home Amanda and Lee Borden**

*3178 Dark Corners Road  
Tallassee, Alabama 36078*

December 10, 2016

# The Blessing of the Home

## Amanda and Lee Borden

*Father Wells, Amanda and Lee, family and friends gather at the Entrance. The People respond with the words in italics and the other responses as noted. Father Wells addresses the people by saying*

Peace be to this home, and to all who dwell in it. *Amen.*

### **At the Threshold.**

Behold, I stand at the door and knock, says the Lord. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come into the house, and eat with you, and you with me.

V. The Lord watch over your going out and your coming in:

R. From this time forth for evermore.

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

Sovereign Lord, you are Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end: Send your servants Amanda and Lee out from this place on many errands, be their constant companion in the way, and welcome them upon their return, so that coming and going they may be sustained by your presence, O Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Lord be with you.

*And also with you.*

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, grant to this home the grace of your presence, that you may be known to be the Inhabitant of this dwelling, and the Defender of this household; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

V. My boundaries enclose a pleasant land:

R. Indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

Loving God, you have taught us to welcome one another as Christ welcomed us: Bless those who from time to time share the hospitality of this home. May your fatherly love shield them, the love of your dear Son preserve them from all evil, and the guidance of your Holy Spirit keep them in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **For the Farm and Garden.**

As the earth puts forth its blossoms, or bushes in a garden burst into flower, so shall the Lord God make righteousness and praise blossom before all the nations.

### **In the Living Room.**

Oh, how good and pleasant it is, when people live together in unity!

V. Above everything, love one another earnestly:

R. For love covers many sins.

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

Give your blessing, Lord, to all who share this room, that they may be knit together in fellowship here on earth, and joined with the communion of your saints in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **The Peace.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*And also with you.*

### **The Eucharist.**

Wells will celebrate a simple communion service from the Prayer Book. All are welcome to receive the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

Jesus, our good Companion, on many occasions you withdrew with your friends for quiet and refreshment: Be present with Amanda and Lee and their family and friends in this place, to which they come for fellowship and recreation; and make of it, we pray, a place of serenity and peace; in your Name we ask it. *Amen.*

### **At the Entrance.**

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live here with the gift of your love; and grant that they may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives they touch. May they grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen them; and preserve them in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### **A Reading from Genesis 18:1-8**

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, 'My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.' So they said, 'Do as you have said.' And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, 'Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.' Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.  
The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

*Father Wells then says the following invocation*

Let the mighty power of the Holy God be present in this place to banish from it every unclean spirit, to cleanse it from every residue of evil, and to make it a secure habitation for those who dwell in it; in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **In the Kitchen.**

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the Name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you.

V. The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord:  
R. And you give them their food in due season.

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

O Lord our God, you supply every need of ours according to your great riches: Bless the hands that work in this place, and give us grateful hearts for daily bread; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **In the Dining Room.**

The living God gave you from heaven rain and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.

V. He brings forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden our hearts:  
R. Oil to make a cheerful countenance, and bread to strengthen the heart.

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

Blessed are you, O Lord, King of the universe, for you give us food and drink to sustain our lives: Make us grateful for all your mercies, and mindful of the needs of others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **In the Bedroom.**

Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.

V. I lie down and go to sleep:  
R. I wake again, because the Lord sustains me.

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

O God of life and love, the true rest of your people: + Sanctify to Amanda and Lee their hours of rest and refreshment, their sleeping and their waking; and grant that, strengthened by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, they may rise to serve you all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **For a Bathroom.**

I will sprinkle you with clean water, and you will be cleansed.

V. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering:  
R. Having our bodies washed with pure water.

Let us pray. *(Silence)*

O holy God, in the incarnation of your Son our Lord you made our flesh the instrument of your self-revelation: Give us a proper respect and reverence for our mortal bodies, keeping them clean and fair, whole and sound; that glorifying you in them, we may confidently await our being clothed upon with spiritual bodies, when that which is mortal is transformed by life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **For the Guest Room.**

Do not neglect to show hospitality; for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

V. Open your homes to each other without complaining:  
R. Use the gifts you have received from God for the good of others.