

Jocelyn and McAlister's Wedding ~ May 3, 2025

From my Facebook post about our wedding.



Meet Bailey, service animal and flower dog. He's wearing a bowtie made from the fabric of my wedding dress.

Yes, you heard right: after several decades together, McAlister Merchant and I got married on May 3rd at Saint Margaret's Episcopal Church in Bellevue WA. We were attended by my sister, Melody Pearson, and his brother, Leigh Merchant, and Rev. Beverly Moore-Tasy officiated.

We were joined by close friends and family from across the US, along with nearly 100 others who watched the livestream. We are so grateful for the gifts and the love surrounding that special day. A special thanks to Mike Canham who took most of these photos for us.

Hugs and blessings to my BFFs Jackie Cornwell Kmetz, Leslie Canham, and Cecilia Wickett without whom this day (especially the reception) would not have been possible.

Already beaming during the rehearsal.



From left, Best Man Leigh Merchant, McAlister the groom, me the bride, and Melody Pearson, maid-of-honor.



Ready for the ceremony: Lt. Leigh Merchant, retired firefighter for the Raleigh NC fire department; Dr. Meridith A. Merchant, *daughter* of McAlister Merchant, the groom, and of course McAlister Merchant the groom! You see that they all have that fabulous smile.



Jocelyn the bride, and Melody, maid-of-honor, ready to go.

Rev. Moore-Tasy helping
Bailey the Flower Dog
complete his duties.





Here come the groom and the best man.



Melody is next, carrying a bouquet of carnations, mums, and roses.



Then Jocelyn, also carrying a bouquet of carnations, mums, roses, and daisies. Jocelyn made her dress from periwinkle cotton knit fabric.



Listening to the beautiful Episcopal liturgy for wedding ceremonies.



Jocelyn's brothers are at far right in the photo. Joel Pearson on the left, and Rev. Mark Pearson on the right, both lay readers.



Panoramic view of the Saint Margaret's Sanctuary with the wedding party and guests.



In her homily, Rev. Moore-Tasy shared her observations of the bridal couple over the months leading up to this day.



Taking each other as man and wife.



Tying the liturgical knot -- literally -- a binding of the hands.



Oh yeah, that too!



Mr. and Mrs. McAlister J. Merchant Jr.
(I AM changing my last name to Merchant.)



The friends and family who joined us that day.



Once again, beaming all over ourselves, just prior to the receiving line.



Posing in front of the bubbling font of holy water.



And yes, the beautiful custom rings.



Those who joined us in person took with them a memento, a quote about love that was attached to a bell.



The exquisite bridal cake, which was accompanied by a full sheet cake for the guests.



Cutting the cake. We fed each other politely, in case you wondered.



McAlister made a speech about his bride, written out on a long scroll.



Beloved friends Marian and Tony Payne from Illinois. Tony and I graduated from Wheaton College Conservatory of Music together.



A special thanks to Dr. Tony Payne for his leadership of the service via prelude, postlude, and singing to lead the congregation.