

A Royal Wedding Bridges the Atlantic and Breaks Old Molds

This weekend Meghan Markle, the 36-year-old star of “Suits,” became the Duchess of Sussex

By Danica Kirka, Jill Lawless and Gregory Katz, Associated Press

WINDSOR, England — The son of British royalty and the daughter of middle-class Americans wed Saturday in a service that reflected Prince Harry's royal heritage, Meghan Markle's biracial roots and the pair's shared commitment to putting a more diverse, modern face on the monarchy.

British reserve crisscrossed with American verve in a service that broke molds and created new ones. Choirboys and a gospel choir; the archbishop of Canterbury and the African American leader of the Episcopal church; a horse-drawn carriage and flowers hand-picked by the groom.

The wedding was a global event, thanks to Harry's status as a senior British royal and Markle's celebrity after starring on the U.S. television series “Suits” for seven years. Yet it seemed somehow so personal — and they both beamed like a couple who couldn't take their eyes off each other.

In a rousing sermon that highlighted a bit of a culture gap between outgoing Americans and reserved Brits, the Most. Rev. Michael Curry of the U.S. stirred the congregation from its fairy-tale reverie, quoting Mar-

tin Luther King in in a sermon that had some reaching for hankies and others shifting in their chairs.

“There's power in love,” Curry said, his voice rising. “Love can help and heal when nothing else can. There's power in love to lift up and liberate when nothing else will.”

He also quoted from the Song of Solomon in the Bible: “Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it.”

Joining the couple were a phalanx of celebrities, many of whom shared their wish to change the world. Oprah Winfrey, Idris Elba, Elton John, George and Amal Clooney, Serena Williams, James Corden and David and Victoria Beckham all watched from rows of seats in the Gothic masterpiece that is St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle.

The British weather was — gasp! — sunny and balmy, bathing the ancient stones of Windsor Castle in a beautiful spring light.

Many in the throng who waited outside also embraced the trans-Atlantic symbolism of the moment. Sheraton Jones, 22, who is from California but studying in Britain, described it as a melding of cultures.

“It was very touching, it's two different cultures kind of coming together,



Doria Ragland takes her seat, prior to the start of the wedding ceremony of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle at St. George's Chapel in Windsor Castle in Windsor, near London, England, Saturday, May 19, 2018.

it was just so surreal,” she said.

In the United States, this royal wedding was embraced for its diversity and inclusivity.

“This was Black history,” said Joy Widgeon, who attended a house party in Burlington, New Jersey, with her 6- and 8-year-old daughters. “African Americans were front and center at the royal wedding. This was the first time, and hopefully it won't be the last. I am here for it.”

Harry also invited buddies from his 10 years of

military service — which included two tours of duty in Afghanistan — and from many of the charities he supports, which have focused on helping wounded veterans and encouraging a more open discussion of mental health issues.

To kick off the festivities, Queen Elizabeth II honored her red-headed, 33-year-old grandson with a new title: the Duke of Sussex, making the 36-year-old Markle the Duchess of Sussex.

The American actress drew raves for her sleek

white silk boat-necked dress by U.K. designer Clare Waight Keller of the French fashion house Givenchy. Her sheer veil — down to her waist in

“African Americans were front and center at the royal wedding

front and billowing for what seemed like miles behind her — carried floral references to all 53 countries in the Commonwealth, countries drawn mostly from the former British Empire, headed by Markle's new grandmother-in-law, the queen.

Caroline Burstein, owner of Browns Bride, a top London bridal boutique, called the bridal gown “a nod to Grace Kelly, Audrey Hepburn and every iconic wedding we have witnessed throughout the 20th and 21st century. It's perfect for her and for the occasion they are celebrating.”

The palace said Markle also selected two other plant designs to be on the veil: Wintersweet, which grows at Kensington Pal-

ace, where the royal couple will live, and the California poppy, in a nod to the bride's birthplace.

Harry and best man Prince William wore white gloves and the frock coat uniforms of the Blues and Royals army regiment, in which Harry was once an officer. Harry also kept his full red beard — a style decision that had sparked British betting earlier.

Markle at first walked down the aisle with 10 young page boys and bridesmaids, then was accompanied by Prince Charles to the altar. As his father and bride drew close, Harry said: “Thank you, Pa.”

To Markle, Harry said: “You look amazing.”

Markle seemed poised and confident as she delivered her vows without so much as a quiver in her voice. She smiled broadly as Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby declared the couple husband and wife. Harry seemed a bit nervous, but happy.

Other relatives in the ceremony included 4-year-old Prince George and 3-year-old Princess Charlotte, the oldest chil-

See WEDDING on page 14

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD, YOUR VOICE

NORTH PORTLAND NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING STRATEGY

Are you a longtime homeowner in N/NE Portland?

Is your home in need of repairs?

No interest and no monthly payment loans are available through the Portland Housing Bureau. Find out more:

City of Portland

Home Repair Loans

Information Sessions

MAY 30th & JUNE 13th

Doors open at 2:30pm

Presentations at 3:00pm & 4:00pm

North Portland Library

512 N Killingsworth St, Portland, OR 97217

For more information about home repair loans, call 503-823-3336 or visit www.portlandoregon.gov/phb/repairs.

WE'RE LISTENING.

May 31 — Join us at Legacy Emanuel's Lorenzen Conference Center (2801 N Gantenbein Ave.) from 5 to 6 p.m. to share your ideas, concerns and questions about TriMet with our new general manager, Doug Kelsey, and board member for North and Northeast Portland.

Or you can just show up for the free \$5 Hop card (supplies limited).

trimet.org/hello

TRI

MET