

The Marriage - Service Format

Icons:



This section title could be in the Order of Service that is printed



Couples need to decide here, eg a hymn to be sung



It's good to include these words in the order of service for the congregation to say.

Pre-arrival notices & Welcome (Minister)

The minister asks the congregation to stand for the Bride.



Processional Music

The bride and groom meet in the centre of the Church in front of the minister.

The minister says:

God is love, and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them.

1 John 4.16



Opening Prayer

All God of wonder and of joy: grace comes from you,

and you alone are the source of life and love.

Without you, we cannot please you;

without your love, our deeds are worth nothing.

Send your Holy Spirit, and pour into our hearts

that most excellent gift of love,

that we may worship you now with thankful hearts

and serve you always with willing minds;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



A hymn

Preface

In the presence of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we have come together to witness the marriage of *N & N* to pray for God's blessing on them, to share their joy and to celebrate their love. Marriage is a gift of God in creation through which husband and wife may know the grace of God. It is given that as man and woman grow together in love and trust, they shall be united with one another in heart, body and mind, as Christ is united with his bride, the Church. The gift of marriage brings husband and wife together in the delight and tenderness of sexual union and joyful commitment to the end of their lives.

It is given as the foundation of family life in which children are [born and] nurtured and in which each member of the family, in good times and in bad, may find strength, companionship and comfort, and grow to maturity in love.

Marriage is a way of life made holy by God and blessed by the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ with those celebrating a wedding at Cana in Galilee. Marriage is a sign of unity and loyalty which all should uphold and honour. It enriches society and strengthens community. No one should enter into it lightly or selfishly but reverently and responsibly in the sight of almighty God.

N & N are now to enter this way of life. They will each give their consent to the other and make solemn vows, and in token of this they will each give and receive a ring. We pray with them that the Holy Spirit will guide and strengthen them, that they may fulfil God's purposes for the whole of their earthly life together.



The Declarations

(The couple stand before the minister.) The minister says to the congregation

First, I am required to ask anyone present who knows a reason why these persons may not lawfully marry, to declare it now.

The minister says to the couple

The vows you are about to take are to be made in the presence of God, who is judge of all and knows all the secrets of our hearts; therefore, if either of you knows a reason why you may not lawfully marry, you must declare it now.

The minister says to the bridegroom

N, will you take N to be your wife?

Will you love her, comfort her, honour and protect her, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

He answers: I will.

The minister says to the bride

N, will you take N to be your husband?

Will you love him, comfort him, honour and protect him, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

She answers: I will.



The minister says to the congregation

Will you, the families and friends of N and N, support and uphold them in their marriage now and in the years to come?

All We will.

The Collect

God our Father, from the beginning
you have blessed creation with abundant life.
Pour out your blessings upon *N* and *N*,
that they may be joined in mutual love and companionship,
in holiness and commitment to each other.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. *All* Amen.

  **Reading(s)**
*One reading should be from the bible. The title and readers
may be included in the Order of Service.*

 **Sermon**
The Minister will preach a short sermon

   **A hymn is sung**

The Marriage

(Congregation to stand)



The Vows

Father of the bride/Supporter passes the bride's hand to the Groom

*N & N I now invite you to join hands and make your vows,
in the presence of God and his people.*

*The bride and bridegroom face each other.
The bridegroom takes the bride's right hand in his.*

*I, N, take you, N, to be my wife,
to have and to hold from this day forward;
for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish,
till death us do part; according to God's holy law.
In the presence of God I make this vow.
They loose hands.*

The bride takes the bridegroom's right hand in hers, and says
*I, N, take you, N, to be my husband,
to have and to hold from this day forward;
for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish,
till death us do part; according to God's holy law.
In the presence of God I make this vow.
They loose hands.*



The Giving of Rings

The minister receives the rings (from the best man), and says this prayer
Heavenly Father, by your blessing let these rings be to N and N
a symbol of unending love and faithfulness, to remind them of the vow
and covenant which they have made this day through Jesus Christ our
*Lord. **All Amen.***

The bridegroom places the ring on the fourth finger of the bride's left hand and, holding it there, says

N, I give you this ring

as a sign of our marriage.

With my body I honour you,

all that I am I give to you,

and all that I have I share with you,

within the love of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

They loose hands and the bride places a ring on the fourth finger of the bridegroom's left hand and, holding it there, says

N, I give you this ring

as a sign of our marriage.

With my body I honour you,

all that I am I give to you,

and all that I have I share with you,

within the love of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



The Proclamation

The minister addresses the people

In the presence of God, and before this congregation,

N and N have given their consent

and made their marriage vows to each other.

They have declared their marriage by the joining of hands

and by the giving and receiving of *rings*.

I therefore proclaim that they are husband and wife.

The minister joins their right hands together, and wraps them with his/her stole and says:

Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.



The Blessing of the Marriage

The husband and wife kneel. The minister may use the following blessing

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, for you have created joy and gladness, pleasure and delight, love, peace and fellowship.

Pour out the abundance of your blessing upon *N* and *N* in their new life together. Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts and a crown upon their heads. Bless them in their work and in their companionship; awake and asleep, in joy and in sorrow, in life and in death. Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that banquet where your saints feast for ever in your heavenly home. We ask this through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **All** Amen.

The minister says to the couple

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve and keep you; the Lord mercifully grant you the riches of his grace, that you may please him both in body and soul, and, living together in faith and love, may receive the blessings of eternal life. **All** Amen.



Registration of the Marriage

The wedding party move to the table with the registers. (often at the front of church) Some music is normally played.



A hymn may be sung



Prayers

The Minister, or another person, will lead the prayers. Couple Kneel at the Altar.

Faithful God, holy and eternal, source of life and spring of love, we thank and praise you for bringing *N* and *N* to this day, and we pray for them.

May their marriage be life-giving and life-long,
enriched by your presence and strengthened by your grace;
may they bring comfort and confidence to each other
in faithfulness and trust.

May the hospitality of their home bring refreshment and joy to all around
them; may their love overflow to neighbours in need and embrace those
in distress.

May they discern in your word order and purpose for their lives;
and may the power of your Holy Spirit lead them in truth and defend
them in adversity.

May they nurture their family with devotion, see their children grow in
body, mind and spirit and come at last to the end of their lives with hearts
content and in joyful anticipation of heaven.



The Lord's Prayer.

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.



The Dismissal

The minister says God the Holy Trinity make *you* strong in faith and love,
defend *you* on every side, and guide *you* in truth and peace;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among *you* and remain with *you* always. **All** Amen.



Recessional Music

The bride & groom process out followed by their families