

The Marriage Service

Welcome

At the entry of the bride

Music

Composer

Introduction

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

1 John 4.16

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.

All Amen.

Hymn (1)

Preface

In the presence of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we have come together to witness the marriage of *N* and *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 and *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.

Declarations

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

To the couple

N and N, 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.

To the bridegroom

N, will you take N to be your wedded 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?

Groom I will.

To the bride

N, will you take N to be your wedded 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?

Bride I will.

The bride and groom each light a candle, saying in turn

This candle that I light is a sign of all that I am. It burns brightly with the flame of my hopes and dreams. I offer it to you in love.

The other responds

Your hopes and your dreams I will respect and defend, and from my heart I thank you for this sign of your trust.

To the people

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.

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)

At least one reading should be from the Bible

Sermon

Hymn (2)

Marriage

Who gives *N* to be married to *N*?

The bridegroom may receive the hand of the bride from the person giving the bride away

To the couple

N and *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 and says either

I, *N*, take you, *N*, to be my wedded 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. All this I vow before God.

or

I, *N*, take thee, *N*, to my wedded 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 ordinance; and thereto I plight thee my troth.

The couple loose hands

The bride takes the bridegroom's right hand in hers, and says either

I, *N*, take you, *N*, to be my wedded 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. All this I vow before God.

or

I, *N*, take thee, *N*, to my wedded 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 ordinance; and thereto I give thee my troth.

Whichever form of vows is chosen, the word 'obey' may be either included or omitted, as desired

The bride and bridegroom loose hands

The ring, or rings, are blessed

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 either

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.

or

N, with this ring I thee wed; with my body I thee honour; and all my worldly goods with thee I share: in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

The couple loose hands. 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.

or

N, with this ring I thee wed; with my body I thee honour; and all my worldly goods with thee I share: in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

To the people

In the presence of God, and before this congregation, *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 the right hands of the bride and bridegroom together and says

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

Blessing of the Marriage

All praise and blessing to you, God of love, creator of the universe, maker of man and woman in your likeness, source of blessing for married life. All praise to you, for you have created courtship and marriage, joy and gladness, feasting and laughter, pleasure and delight. May your blessing come in full upon *N* and *N*. May they know your presence in their joys and in their sorrows. May they reach

old age in the company of friends and come at last to your eternal kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The bridegroom may kiss the bride

Lighting of the Marriage Candle

Together the couple light the wedding candle, extinguishing the smaller candles once the flame is lit

The flame of your love now burns as one. May it burn for ever, warming your hearts, lightening your path, and leading you together towards the one Eternal Light.

All Amen.

God our Father, your Son, Jesus Christ, is the Light of the World: bless + this candle, that it may be to N and N a sign of your light and presence and a reminder of our love and prayers.

All Amen.

Prayers

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:
Lord of life and love.

All Hear our prayer.

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

Lord of life and love

All Hear our prayer.

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.

Lord of life and love

All Hear our prayer.

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.

Lord of life and love

All Hear our prayer.

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

Lord of life and love

All Hear our prayer.

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**All Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Hymn (3)

Blessing of the Congregation

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...

Registration of the Marriage

Music

Composer

At the exit of the bride and groom

Music

Composer