

The Bible Reading

The Talk

Hymn

The Prayers

For the Holy Spirit

Almighty God,
you send your Holy Spirit
to be the life and light of all your people.
Open the hearts of these your servants to the riches of his grace,
that they may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit
in love and joy and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

For children

Heavenly Father,
maker of all things,
you enable us to share in your work of creation.
Bless this couple in the gift and care of children,
that their home may be a place of love, security and truth,
and their children grow up to know and love you in your Son
Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

For the home

Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who shared at Nazareth the life of an earthly home:
reign in the home of these your servants as Lord and King;
give them grace to minister to others as you have ministered to men,
and grant that by deed and word
they may be witnesses of your saving love
to those among whom they live;
for the sake of your holy name.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

The Blessing

Minister

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.

The Registration of the Marriage

Please return this service sheet on your way out

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THE MARRIAGE SERVICE

Common Worship

The Welcome

The minister welcomes the people

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you

All and also with you.

Hymn

The Introduction

Minister

We have come together in the presence of God, to witness the marriage of *N* and *N*, to ask his blessing on them, and to share in their joy. Our Lord Jesus Christ was himself a guest at a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and through his Spirit he is with us now.

The Bible teaches us that marriage is a gift of God in creation and a means of his grace, a holy mystery in which man and woman become one flesh. It is God's purpose that, as husband and wife give themselves to each other in love throughout their lives, they shall be united in that love as Christ is united with his Church.

Marriage is given, that husband and wife may comfort and help each other, living faithfully together in need and in plenty, in sorrow and in joy. It is given, that with delight and tenderness they may know each other in love, and, through the joy of their bodily union, may strengthen the union of their hearts and lives. It is given as the foundation of family life in which children may be born and nurtured in accordance with God's will, to his praise and glory.

In marriage husband and wife belong to one another, and they begin a new life together in the community. It is a way of life that all should honour; and it must not be undertaken carelessly, lightly, or selfishly, but reverently, responsibly, and after serious thought.

This is the way of life, created and hallowed by God, that *N* and *N* are now to begin. They will each give their consent to the other; they will join hands and exchange solemn vows, and in token of this they will [*each*] give and receive a ring.

Therefore, on this their wedding day we pray with them, that, strengthened and guided by God, they may fulfil his purpose for the whole of their earthly life together.

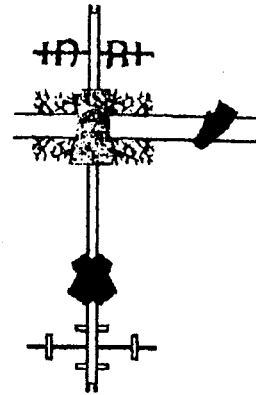
The Declarations

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 couple stand before the minister

The Vows

The minister introduces the vows

*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

*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 ring(s), 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 (bride) places the ring on the fourth finger of the bride's
(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 bride (bridegroom) then replies

*N, I receive 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,*

They loose hands.

Where rings are exchanged, the above declarations are repeated as appropriate.

*If only one ring is used the service continues with **The Proclamation**.*

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 says

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

The Blessing of the Marriage

The husband and wife kneel.

The minister uses one of the following blessings

*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.

*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.