

The Rite of Marriage

Order of Service

We Gather Before God

Prelude

Lighting of the Candle(s) of Remembrance

Lighting of the Family Candles (Mothers)

Processional Music

Sentences of Scripture:

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God,
and God abides in them.

This is the day which the Lord has made. Let us rejoice
and be glad in it.

Statement of the Gift of Marriage:

We have gathered in the presence of God to give thanks
for the gift of marriage,
to witness the joining together of

to surround them with our prayers, and to ask
God's blessing upon them,
so that they may be strengthened for their life
together and nurtured in their love for God.

God created us male and female, and gave us marriage
so that husband and wife may help and comfort
each other, living faithfully together in plenty
and in want, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness
and in health, throughout all their days.

God gave us marriage for the full expression of the love
between a man and a woman.

In marriage a woman and a man belong to each other,
and with love and tenderness
freely give themselves to each other.

God gave us marriage for the well-being of human
society, for the ordering of family life,
and for the birth and nurture of children.

God gave us marriage as a holy mystery in which a man
and a woman are joined together,
and become one, just as Christ is one with the
church.

In marriage, husband and wife are called to a new way
of life, created, ordered, and blessed by God.
This way of life must not be entered into carelessly, or
from selfish motives, but responsibly, and
prayerfully.

We rejoice that marriage is given by God, blessed by
our Lord Jesus Christ, and sustained by the Holy
Spirit.

Therefore, let marriage be held in honour among all.

Declaration of Intent

The Minister addresses the bride and groom
individually.

Bride

_____ having heard how God has
created, ordered, and blessed the covenant of
marriage, do you affirm your desire and intention to
enter this covenant?

Answer --- I will.

Groom

_____ having heard how God has created, ordered, and blessed the covenant of marriage, do you affirm your desire and intention to enter this covenant?

Answer --- I will.

The Affirmation of the Family

Will the families of the bride and groom please stand.

Do you give your blessing to _____, and promise to do everything in your power to uphold them in their marriage?

Answer ----- We do.

You may be seated.

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

God of mercy, you have never broken your covenant with us, and you free us to live together in the power of your faithful love. Amid all the changing words of our generation, may we hear your eternal Word that does not change.

Then may we respond to your gracious promises with faithful and obedient lives; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Scripture Reading(s)

The Gift of Love

1 Corinthians 13

13 If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, ¹ but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹ For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰ but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror, dimly, ⁱⁱ but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

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Prayer:

Let us pray:

Gracious God, you are always faithful in your love for us.

Look mercifully upon _____, who have come seeking your blessing.

Let your Holy Spirit rest upon them so that with steadfast love they may honour the promises they make this day, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

We Make Our Vows Before God

Exchange of Promises

_____, since it is your intention to marry, join your right hands, and with your promises bind yourselves to each other as husband and wife.

[Groom, then Bride (repeats after Minister)]

Groom

_____, repeat after me

Before God and these witnesses I, _____, take you, _____, 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, as long as we both shall live.
This is my solemn vow.

Bride

_____, repeat after me

Before God and these witnesses I, _____, take you, _____, 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, as long as we both shall live.
This is my solemn vow.

Presentation of Rings

What do you bring as a sign of your promise?

The rings are presented.

THE RINGS ARE LAID ON THE BOOK

Exchange of Rings

BRIDE GIVES RING TO GROOM

Bride,

_____, Please repeat after me...

_____, I give you this ring as a sign of the covenant we have made, before God and these people.

GROOM RECEIVES THE RING

_____, Please repeat after me...

_____, I take this ring and will wear it as a sign of the covenant we have made, before God and these people.

GROOM GIVES RING TO BRIDE

Groom

_____, Please repeat after me...

_____, I give you this ring as a sign of the covenant we have made, before God and these people.

BRIDE RECEIVES THE RING

_____, Please repeat after me....

_____, I take this ring and will wear it as a sign of the covenant we have made, before God and these people.

We Hear God's Blessing

Blessing of the Couple – Prayer over the Rings

Let us pray.

By your blessing, O God may these rings be to _____, symbols of unending love and faithfulness, reminding them of the covenant they have made this day, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer

Let us pray:

Eternal God, without your grace no promise is sure. Strengthen _____ with patience, kindness, gentleness and all other gifts of your Spirit, so that they may fulfill the vows they have made.

Keep them faithful to each other and to you. Fill them with love and joy that they may build a home of peace and welcome.

Guide them by your word to serve you all their days.

Enable us all, O God, in each of our homes and lives to do your will.

Enrich us with your grace so that, encouraging and supporting one another, we may serve those in need and hasten the coming of

peace, love, and justice on earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray.....
(The Lord's Prayer)

Lighting the Marriage Candle

_____, you have now become one in marriage. As a symbol of your union, of the promises you have made before God today, I ask you now to light the marriage candle. May it always burn bright.

Blessed be the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit now and forever.

We Sign the Legal Documents

Signing of the Register

We Celebrate the Marriage

Announcement of Marriage

Before God and in the presence of this congregation, _____ have made their solemn vows to each other.

They have confirmed their promises by the joining of hands and by the giving and receiving of rings.

Minister joins the couple's right hands.

_____, I proclaim that you are now husband and wife.

You may seal your vows with a kiss.

Those whom God has joined together let no one separate.

We Go Out to Bless the World with God's Love

Charge to the Couple

As God's own, clothe yourselves with compassion,
kindness and patience,
forgiving each other as the Lord has forgiven you, and
crown all these things with
love, which binds everything together in perfect
harmony

Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the
name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through
him.

Benediction

The grace of Christ attend you the love of God surround
you,
the Holy Spirit keep you, that you may live in faith,
abound in hope, and grow in love, both now and
forevermore. Amen.

Presentation

Friends, I now present to you

Recessional Music