

A SERVICE FOR MARRIAGE

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

The people stand as the wedding party takes its place.

The couple, with the wedding party, stand before the minister in the presence of witnesses.

The minister welcomes the congregation and adds the following:

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

And also with you.

The minister says:

God is love, and those who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. 1 John 4:16

The minister says:

We have come together in the presence of God
to witness the marriage of N and N as we share their joy.
Marriage is a gift of God our Creator.
It is a symbol of God's unending love for his people,
and of the union between Christ and his Church.
Christ loved his bride the Church,
and gave himself for her.
As he has called N and N to marriage,
so he draws their differing gifts and hopes
into a unity of love and service.

2.

Scripture teaches that marriage is a lifelong partnership uniting a woman and a man in heart, mind and body. In the joy of their union, husband and wife enrich and respond to each other, growing in tenderness and understanding. Through marriage a new family is formed, where children may be born and grow in secure and loving care. Marriage is therefore to be honoured by all. No one should enter it lightly or selfishly, but responsibly and joyfully, with mutual respect and the promise to be faithful.

So let us pray with N and N
as they prepare to exchange their solemn vows:

Blessed are you, loving God,
your Spirit binds us together.

**Crown our lives with your goodness;
sustain us all our days with your love.**

Bless N and N with wisdom and pleasure.
Be their friend and companion in joy,
their comfort in need and in sorrow.
And when this life is ended
welcome them into your presence,
there with all your people
to praise your holy name:

**Blessed be God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.**

3.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

READINGS

[At least one reading from the Holy Bible is required.
Suitable non-scriptural reading(s) may be added if desired.]

A short address by the minister follows.

THE CONSENT

The minister says to GROOM:

N, will you give yourself to N, to be her husband'
to live with her according to God's word?
Will you love her, comfort her,
honour and protect her
and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her
so long as you both shall live?

GROOM answers:

I will.

The minister says to BRIDE:

N, will you give yourself to N to be his wife,
to live with him according to God's word?
Will you love him, comfort him,
honour and protect him
and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him
so long as you both shall live?

BRIDE answers:

I will.

4.

The minister addresses the congregation:

Families and friends,
you are witnesses to these vows.
Will you do everything in your power
to uphold N and N in their marriage?

Answer

We will.

THE MARRIAGE

N, facing BRIDE, taking her hand(s) in his, says

I, N, in the presence of God,
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,
so long as we both shall live.
All this I vow and promise.

N, still facing GROOM and taking his hand(s) in hers, says

I, N in the presence of God,
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,
so long as we both shall live.
All this I vow and promise.

5.

The wedding rings are given to the minister who says:

God of steadfast love,
by your blessing let these rings be for N and N
a symbol of their love and faithfulness
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GROOM places the ring on BRIDE'S ring-finger and says

N, I give you this ring
as a symbol of our marriage.
With all that I am and all that I have
I honour you; in the name of God. **Amen.**

BRIDE replies

N, I receive this ring
as a symbol of your love and faithfulness
to the end of our days.

BRIDE places the ring on GROOM'S ring-finger and says:

N, I give you this ring
as a symbol of our marriage.
With all that I am and all that I have
I honour you; in the name of God. **Amen.**

GROOM replies

N, I receive this ring
as a symbol of you love and faithfulness
to the end of our days.

6.

The minister joins the couple's hands and declares to the people

Before God and in the presence of us all,
N and N have joined hands
and made their solemn vows,
promising life-long faithfulness to each other.
In the name of God,
I declare them to be husband and wife.

The kiss is normally exchanged here

What God has joined together
let no one separate.

The couple say together

God of tenderness and strength,
you have brought our paths together
and led us to this day;
go with us now as we travel through good times,
through trouble, and through change.
Bless our home, our partings and our meetings.
Make us worthy of one another's best,
and tender with one another's dreams. Amen.

The minister adds a blessing for the couple

N, N, God the Father lovingly enfold you,
God the Son grace your home and table,
God the Holy Spirit crown you with joy and with peace.
The Lord bless you and keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of all grace,
friend and companion,
look in favour on N and N,
and on all who are made one in marriage.
In your love deepen their love,
strengthen their wills
to keep the promises they have made,
that they may continue in life-long faithfulness to each other,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

[The Lord's Prayer and one form of the closing Blessing are fixed parts of the Service.]

For faithfulness

God of all grace,
Friend and companion,
look in favour on N and N,
and all who are made one in marriage.
In your love deepen their love,
strengthen their wills
to keep the promises they have made,
that they may continue
in life-long faithfulness to each other;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For the joy of loving

God our Creator,
we thank you for your gift of sexual love
by which husband and wife
may delight in each other,
and share with you the joy of creating new life.
By your grace may N and N remain lovers,
rejoicing in your goodness all their days. **Amen.**

For children

Lord of life,
You shape us in your image,
And by your gracious gift
The human family is increased.
To N and N grant the blessing of children.
Fill them with wisdom and love
As they care for their family,
So that they and their children
May know and love you,
Though your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For an existing family

God of all grace and goodness,
we thank you for this new family
and for everything parents and children have to share;
by your Spirit of peace draw them together
and help them to be true friends to one another.
Let your love surround them
and your care protect them,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For grace to live well

Faithful God,
giver of all good things,
give N and N wisdom and devotion
in the ordering of their life together.
May they dwell together in love and peace
all the days of their life,
seeking one another's welfare,
bearing one another's burdens,
and sharing one another's joys;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For discipleship

Eternal God,
without your grace nothing is strong, nothing is sure.
strengthen N and N with patience, kindness, gentleness
and all other gifts of the Holy Spirit,
So that they may fulfil the vows they have made.
Keep them faithful to each other and to you
fill them with such love and joy
that they may build a home of peace and welcome.
Make their life together a sign of Christ's love
in this broken world,
that unity may overcome estrangement,
forgiveness heal guilt,
and joy conquer despair;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

For the families of the couple

Gracious Lord,
bless the parents and families of N and N
that they may grow in love and friendship.
Grant that, as they have witnessed these vows today,
they may find their lives enriched and strengthened
and their loyalties confirmed. **Amen**

For the healing of memory

Loving God,
you are merciful and forgiving.
grant that those who are suffering the hurts of the past
may experience your generous love.
Heal their memories, comfort them,
and send them all from here
renewed and hopeful. **Amen**

For the joy of companionship

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. **Amen.**

7.

**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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

[The marriage certificates are signed just before the final blessing]

THE BLESSING

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in such harmony with one another,
in accord with Christ Jesus,
that together you may with one voice
glorify the God and Father of our lord Jesus Christ:

and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**[PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FOLLOWING COPYRIGHT NOTICE MUST
APPEAR AT THE END OF YOUR SERVICE. THE TYPE CAN BE
QUITE SMALL.]**

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