

I Introduction

The Welcome

The minister welcomes the people and this prayer is said by 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.**

Hymn

Preface

In the presence of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
we have come together
to witness the Christian 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 Christian 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 rings.
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 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.

The minister says to the bridegroom

N, do you take *N* to be your wife in Christian marriage?
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, do you take *N* to be your husband in Christian marriage?
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
now and in the years to come?
We will.

The Collect

The minister invites the people to pray, silence is kept and the minister says 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. Amen.

Readings

Sermon

Hymn

¶ Christian Marriage

The couple stand before the minister.

The Vows

The minister introduces the vows

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.
And this is my solomn vow.

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.
And

The Giving of Rings

The minister receives the rings, and says

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.
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 Christian marriage vows to each other.
Let us celebrate their new relationship and their love for one another.

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

The Blessing of the Marriage

The husband and wife kneel

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.

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.
Amen.

Prayers

Father God,
We thank you for the love
which has brought *N* and *N* to each other
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.
Lord of life and love:
hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, maker of all things, (Optional)
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.
Amen.

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;
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer.

The Dismissal

Hymn

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.

Amen.

Registration of the marriage

Whilst the registers are signed music may be sung or played

Please note that this text is to enable the bride and groom
to see what is said during a Wedding Service.

You are not required to memorise any of the vows and this
full text does not need to be reproduced in your Wedding
stationery.

A separate sheet details the information to be included in
the Wedding Service Stationery.