

A SERVICE OF CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE
Contemporary Wording

This service of Christian marriage is provided for couples who wish to solemnize their marriage in a service of Christian worship, parallel in its structure to the Sunday service, which includes the proclamation of the Word with prayer and praise. Christian marriage is proclaimed as a sacred covenant reflecting Christ's covenant with the church. Everything about the service is designed to witness that this is a Christian marriage.

Both words and actions consistently reflect the belief that husband and wife are equal partners in Christian marriage.

PRELUDE

SEATING OF THE FAMILIES

PROCESSION OF THE WEDDING PARTY

PROCESSION OF THE BRIDE

(optional) SOLO

GREETING

Minister:

Friends, we are gathered together in the sight of God, to witness and bless the joining together of **Groom and Bride** in Christian marriage. The covenant of marriage was established by God, who created us male and female for each other. With his presence and power Jesus graced a wedding at Cana of Galilee, and in his sacrificial love gave us the example for the love of husband and wife. **Groom and Bride** come to give themselves to one another in this holy covenant.

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

Minister:

I ask you now, in the presence of God and these people, to declare your intention to enter into union with one another through the grace of Jesus Christ, who calls you into union with himself as acknowledged in your baptism.

Minister:

Bride will you have **Groom** to be your husband, to live together in holy marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

Bride: I will.

Minister

Groom will you have **Bride** to be your wife, to live together in holy marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

Groom: I will.

You may include the traditional wording about the presentation of the bride here.

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Minister to people:

The marriage of **Groom and Bride** unites their families and creates a new one. They ask for your blessing. Will all of you, by God's grace, do everything in your power to uphold and care for these two persons in their marriage?

People: We will.

Minister:

Let us pray.

God of all peoples, you are the true light illumining everyone. You show us the way, the truth, and the life. You love us even when we are disobedient. You sustain us with your Holy Spirit. We rejoice in your life in the midst of our lives. We praise you for your presence with us, and especially in this act of solemn covenant; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(optional) SOLO

Move to the Altar

Minister, Bride and Groom, MOH and BM move to altar. Minister stands behind kneelers opposite bride and groom, MOH next to Bride, BM next to Groom.

SCRIPTURE READING(S) (Verses read by a designated reader or by the minister.)

HOMILY (or WEDDING MESSAGE) (Remarks by the Minister)

Minister:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, creator and preserver of all life, author of salvation, giver of all grace: Bless and sanctify with your Holy Spirit **Bride and Groom**, who come now to join in marriage. Grant that they may give their vows to each other in the strength of your steadfast love. Enable them to grow in love and peace with you and with one another all their days, that they may reach out in concern and service to the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

EXCHANGE OF VOWS

Groom:

In the name of God, I, **Groom** take you, **Bride**, 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, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

Bride:

In the name of God, I, **Bride** take you, **Groom** 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, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

BLESSING AND EXCHANGE OF RINGS

Minister:

These rings are the outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, signifying to us the union between Jesus Christ and his church.

Bless, O Lord, the giving of these rings, that they who wear them may live in your peace and continue in your favor all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Groom:

Bride, I give you this ring as a sign of my vow, and with all that I have, I honor you; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Bride:

Groom, I give you this ring as a sign of my vow, and with all that I have, I honor you; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE

Minister:

You have declared your consent and vows before God and this congregation. May God confirm your covenant and fill you both with grace.

Minister:

Now that **Groom and Bride** have given themselves to each other by solemn vows, with the joining of hands, (and the giving and receiving of rings), I announce to you that they are husband and wife; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Those whom God has joined together, let no one put asunder. Amen.

BLESSING OF THE MARRIAGE

The husband and wife may kneel, as the minister prays:

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of Christian marriage that in it is represented the covenant between Christ and his church. Send therefore your blessing upon **Bride and Groom**, that they may surely keep their marriage covenant, and so grow in love and godliness together that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (sung by soloist or choir or spoken in unison)

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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION (or DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING)

Minister:

God the Eternal keep you in love with each other, so that the peace of Christ may abide in your home. Go to serve God and your neighbor in all that you do.

Bear witness to the love of God in this world, so that those to whom love is a stranger will find in you generous friends. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

RECESSIONAL

POSTLUDE

RINGING OF THE CARILLON