

A SERVICE OF CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

Traditional 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 the Baptismal Covenant. 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 and that they are entering into the marriage of their own volition.

PRELUDE

SEATING OF THE FAMILIES

PROCESSION OF THE WEDDING PARTY

PROCESSION OF THE BRIDE

(optional) SOLO

GREETING

Minister:

Dearly beloved, we are gathered together here in the sight of God, and in the presence of these witnesses, to join together **Groom and Bride** in holy matrimony; which is an honorable estate, instituted of God, and signifying unto us the mystical union which exists between Christ and his Church; which holy estate Christ adorned and beautified with his presence in Cana of Galilee. It is therefore not to be entered into unadvisedly, but reverently, discreetly, and in the fear of God. Into this holy estate **Groom and Bride** come now to be joined.

CHARGE TO THE BRIDE AND GROOM

I require and charge you both, as you stand in the presence of God, before whom the secrets of all hearts are disclosed, that, having duly considered the holy covenant you are about to make, you do now declare before this company your pledge of faith, each to the other. Be well assured that if these solemn vows are kept inviolate, as God's Word demands, and if steadfastly you endeavor to do the will of your heavenly Father, God will bless your marriage, will grant you fulfillment in it, and will establish your home in peace.

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

Minister to the man:

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*

Minister to the woman:

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.*

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Minister: Who presents **Bride** to be married to **Groom**?

Father or other presenter: Here mother and I or I do or we do or her family and I.

(Optional) RESPONSE OF THE FAMILIES AND THE PEOPLE

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.

(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(s) or by the minister.)

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

EXCHANGE OF VOWS

Man to woman:

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.

Woman to man:

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

Man to woman:

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

Woman to man:

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

7/27/2016

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DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE

Minister:

Forasmuch as **Groom and Bride** have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and thereto have pledged their faith each to the other and have declared the same by joining hands and by giving and receiving rings; I pronounce that they are husband and wife together, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Those whom God hath joined together let no one put asunder. Amen.

BLESSING OF THE MARRIAGE

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

O eternal God, creator and preserver of all mankind, giver of all spiritual grace, the author of everlasting life: Send thy blessing upon this man and this woman, whom we bless in thy name; that they may surely perform and keep the vow and covenant between them made, and may ever remain in perfect love and peace together, and live according to thy laws.

Look graciously upon them, that they may love, honor, and cherish each other, and so live together in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and a place of 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