

THE MARRIAGE SERVICE

(Seated for the first part)

We have come together in the presence of God, to witness the marriage of **Name** and **Name** to ask his blessing on them, and to share in their joy. Our Lord Jesus Christ was himself a guest at a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and through his Spirit he is with us now.

The Scriptures teach us that marriage is a gift of God in creation and a means of his grace, a holy mystery in which man and woman become one flesh. It is God's purpose that, as husband and wife give themselves to each other in love throughout their lives, they shall be united in that love as Christ is united with his Church.

Marriage is given, that husband and wife may comfort and help each other, living faithfully together in need and in plenty, in sorrow and in joy. It is given, that with delight and tenderness they may know each other in love, and, through the joy of their bodily union, may strengthen the union of their hearts and lives. It is given, that they may have children and be blessed in caring for them and bringing them up in accordance with God's will, to his praise and glory.

In marriage husband and wife belong to one another, and they begin a new life together in the community. It is a way of life that all should honour, and it must not be undertaken carelessly, lightly, or selfishly, but reverently, responsibly, and after serious thought.

This is the way of life, created and hallowed by God, that **Name** and **Name** are now to begin. They will each give their consent to the other, they will join hands and exchange solemn vows, and in token of this they will give and receive a ring.

Therefore, on this their wedding day we pray with them, that, strengthened and guided by God, they may fulfill his purpose for the whole of their earthly life together.

But first I am required to ask anyone present who knows a reason why these persons may not lawfully marry, to declare it now.

Minister to Bride & Groom:

I require and charge you both in the presence of God and of this congregation that if either of you knows anything to prevent you from being lawfully married you do now confess it.

Groom repeats:

*I declare that I know of no legal reason why I, **(Full name)**, may not be joined in marriage to **(Full name)***

Bride repeats:

*I declare that I know of no legal reason why I, **(Full name)** may not be joined in marriage to **(Full name)***

To the Groom:

Name, will you take **Name**, to be your wife? 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?

Groom says: *I will*

To the Bride:

Name, will you take **Name** to be your husband? 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?

Bride says: *I will*

Who gives this woman to this man?

Father: *I do*

(All stand)

Bride & Groom face each other. Groom takes bride's right hand in his and says:

*I **Name** take you, **Name**
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, and respect,
till death us do part,
according to God's holy law;
and this is my solemn vow.*

They loose hands. Bride takes groom's right hand and says:

*I, **Name**, take you, **Name**
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, and respect
till death us do part,
according to God's holy law;
and this is my solemn vow.*

Minister receives rings

Heavenly Father, by your blessing, let this ring be to **Name** and **Name** 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

Groom places ring on fourth finger and says:

*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,
all that I have I share with you,
within the love of God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

If rings are exchanged, bride places ring on fourth finger and says:

*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.*

Minister addresses congregation:

In the presence of God, and before this congregation, **Name** and **Name** have given their consent and made their marriage vows to each other. They have declared their marriage by the joining of hands and by the giving and receiving of a ring. I therefore proclaim that they are husband and wife.

Minister joins their right hands together and says:

That which God has joined together, let not man divide.