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Welcome and introduction

Welcome to ... church,
for the celebration of the marriage between ... AB ... and ... CD



In marriage, husband and wife begin a new life together.
They are a sign to the world of unity and loyalty;
their love enriches society and strengthens community.
Marriage is a way of life made holy by God.



Readings from Scripture

Some suggested readings:

Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures):

Genesis 1:26-28, 31a, Psalm 23, Song of Songs 7:10-13

New Testament:

Matthew 5:1-9, Mark 10:6-9, John 2:1-1,
1 Corinthians 13:1-8a, 13, Ephesians 3:14-21, 1 John 4:7-19

Sermon

The readings and the sermon may come later in the service,
after the marriage ceremony.

Declarations

The Minister says to the couple:

Before God and before this congregation,
I will ask you to declare your freedom and readiness to
enter into the covenant of marriage.

I will also ask your families and this congregation to
affirm their willingness to support you today and in
the years to come.

Legal declarations:

The promises

The man is asked:

... AB ... will you take ... CD ...
to be your wife in Christian marriage?
Will you love, comfort, honour and protect her,
in times of prosperity and health
and in times of trouble and suffering?
And will you be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

I will.

The woman is asked:

... CD ... will you take ... AB ...
to be your husband in Christian marriage?
Will you love, comfort, honour and protect him,
in times of prosperity and health
and in times of trouble and suffering?
And will you be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

I will.

If either, or both, has children:

Will you promise to be faithful, loving and caring parents to ... N ... (and ... N ...)?

We will.

The immediate family is asked:

Will you, the families of ... A ... and ... C ... ,
give your blessing to their marriage
and will you always support and encourage them?

We will.

The congregation is asked:

Will you, the friends of ... A ... and ... C ... ,
support and encourage them in their marriage?

All We will.

The vows

The couple turn to face each other and join right hands. In the presence of the Authorised Person, or the Registrar, and two witnesses they exchange vows in this form or one of the alternative forms (pp 150-152).

I, ... AB ... , take you (thee), ... CD ... ,
to be my wedded wife:*

**in accordance with God's holy will,
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.
This is my solemn vow.**

I, ... CD ... , take you (thee), ... AB ... ,
to be my wedded husband:*

**in accordance with God's holy will,
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.
This is my solemn vow.**

The giving and receiving of rings

The rings are given to the Minister who prays:

Eternal God,
whose love encircles us all,
bless the giving and receiving of these rings.
May they be signs of a love which never ends,
beautiful, holy and strong.
May they be tokens of commitment and faithfulness
and reminders of the promises and vows made today.
In the name of God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit. & U H D W R U & K U L V W D Q G 6 S L U L W
Amen.

All

**I receive this ring in God's name
as a sign of all that we have promised
and all that we shall share.**

The couple may exchange other appropriate symbols and gifts.

The Marriage blessing

Most gracious God, source of all true love,
we give you thanks that ... A ... and ... C ...
have answered your call
and have given themselves today to one another
in the covenant of marriage.
Pour out the fullness of your blessing on them.
Lead them into that love
which never comes to an end.
Give them grace to forgive when words or actions hurt.
Give them strength to persevere through times of testing
and to support each other through darkness and distress.
May they be thankful
for all that has brought them to this moment.
May they joyfully embrace this new beginning,
and journey on with ever new delight.
Bless their families and friends,
that they may be a constant source of strength.
Bless their home,
that it may be a place of welcome.
*(Bless them in the gift of children,
that they may be wise and loving parents).*

Bless all who celebrate with ... A ... and ... C ... ,
that love may flourish
and friendship touch the lonely.

And grant that we, who today have witnessed
the sharing and

The declaration of Marriage

... A ... and ... C ... have declared before God and before you
that they will live together in Christian marriage.
They have made promises to one another,
have exchanged solemn vows
and have symbolised their marriage today
by joining hands and by the giving and receiving of rings. (*a ring*)
I therefore declare them to be husband and wife,
in the name of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. & U H D W R U & K U L V W D Q G 6 S L U L W
Those whom God has joined together, let no one separate.

Greeting

The couple may kiss. The congregation may applaud.
The sign of Peace may be shared.

Hymn or song

Prayers of Intercession

O God of love,
we pray for all those who
have made a commitment to love another;
for all those newly married today,
for those in the first days of love,
and for those who have celebrated many anniversaries.
Be with us all in the joy and vulnerability of loving.
Strengthen us in commitment and loyalty,
guide us when love is difficult or costly,
and comfort us whenever love ends.

We pray for the Church,
the church communities we know,
and the one Church throughout the world.
May your people be united in love,
embody your peace and grow in faith.
May our worship be joyful and sincere
and our communities welcoming and warm.
Let faith be expressed with integrity
and service to the world offered with love.

We pray for the world,
that the peace of God will reign among the nations
and between all peoples.

May there be an end to conflict and aggression,
a growth in understanding between faiths and traditions,
and among all people a desire for justice.

May the hungry be fed, the enslaved set free,



Blessing

May God who is light shine in your darkness.

May God who is love be the love between you.

May God who is life be your life everlasting.

And the blessing of God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, & U H D W R U & K U L V W D Q G 6 S L U L W

be with you all, now and for ever,

All **Amen.**

or

May the God who made us for one another,

who loves us with a faithful love

and whose spirit makes us passionate and strong,

bless you and embrace you, now and for ever,

All **Amen.**

Text A

I, ... AB ... , take you (thee), ... CD ... ,
to be my wedded wife.*

I declare my love for you.

I give myself to you

