

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us,

**All: 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,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

### The Dismissal and Blessing of All Present.

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.

**All: Amen.**

*This service is reproduced according to and under the Canons of the Church of England using Common Worship, Pastoral Services for the Church of England (2000).*

## MARRIAGE SERVICE

### Introduction

A wedding is one of life's great moments, a time of serious commitment as well as good wishes, feasting and joy. St John tells us how Jesus shared in such a wedding at Cana, and gave there a sign of new beginnings as he turned water into wine.

Marriage is intended by God to be a creative relationship, as God's blessing enables husband and wife to love and support each other in the care and upbringing of children. For Christians, marriage is also an invitation to share life together in the spirit of Jesus Christ. It is based upon a solemn, public and life-long covenant between a man and a woman, declared and celebrated in the presence of God and before witnesses.

On this their wedding day the bride and bridegroom face each other, make their promises and receive God's blessing. You are witnesses of the marriage, and express your support by your presence and your prayers. Your support does not end today; the couple will value continued encouragement in the days and years ahead of them.

***"Love is patient; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."***

*1 Corinthians 13 v4-7.*

## Wedding Order of Service.

Please take part fully in this special and happy occasion.

You are welcome to take photos during the service provided you do so sensibly, use flash rarely, so as not to be conspicuous or to spoil the day for the couple or their guests.

*Please stand for the entrance of the bride.*

### Welcome

*Minister:* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

God is love, and those who live in love live in God  
and God lives in them. *1 John 4v16*

*We all say together:* **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.**

*We remain standing to sing the first hymn.*

May they dwell in peace all the days of their life,  
seeking one another's welfare  
bearing one another's burdens  
and sharing one another's joys;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

*Children, other family members and friends;*  
God of all goodness, we thank you for this new family,  
and for everything parents and children have to share,  
by your Spirit of peace draw them together  
and help them to be true friends to one another.  
Bless this couple in the gift and care of children,  
that their home may be a place of love,  
security, and truth.

Let your love surround them  
and your care protect them;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

*For the couple and for the future;*  
Heavenly Father,  
we thank you that in our earthly lives  
you speak to us of your eternal life:  
we pray that through their marriage  
N and N may know you more clearly,  
love you more dearly,  
and follow you more nearly,  
day by day, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

*We stand to sing the third hymn as husband and wife  
move to the altar.*

### **The Prayers.**

*Please sit or kneel.*

*Thanksgiving;*

*God of love,*

*we thank you for the gift of marriage  
and for the joys it brings.*

*Bless us as we share in this wedding.*

*We thank you for the love  
which has brought N and N to each other,  
and for their desire to share that love  
for the rest of their lives;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**All:           Amen.**

*Faithfulness, spiritual growth, joy, love, forgiveness and  
healing;*

*Faithful God,*

*without your grace nothing is strong, nothing is sure.*

*Strengthen N and N with patience, kindness, gentleness,  
and all other gifts of the Holy Spirit,*

*so that they may fulfil the vows they have made this day.*

*Keep them faithful to each other and to you.*

*Fill them with such love and joy*

*that they may build a home of peace and welcome.*

*Make their life together a sign of Christ's love*

*in this broken world,*

*that unity may overcome estrangement,*

*forgiveness heal guilt, and joy conquer despair.*

### **Readings**

*At least one reading from the Bible is used.*

*These may be read by the minister or by family and friends.*

### **Colossians 3v12-15**

*Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,  
compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear  
with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against  
another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven  
you, so you also must forgive. Above all, put on love, which  
binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the  
peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were  
called in the one body. And be thankful.*

*These are a selection of alternative suggested bible  
readings.*

*Genesis 1v26-28; Song of Solomon 2v10-13 & 8v6-7;  
Matthew 5v1-10; Mark 10v6-9 & v13-16; John 2v1-11, John  
15v9-17; Romans 8v31-39; Romans 12v1-2&v9-13; 1  
Corinthians 13; Ephesians 4v1-6; Philippians 4v4-9; Colossians  
3v12-17; 1 John 3v18-24; 1 John 4v7-12.*

*In addition readings or poems from other sources may be  
used, which you may like to invite family or friends to read.*

### **Sermon**

*The couple, accompanied by their supporters, stand before  
the minister and turn to face each other.*

## The Purposes of Marriage

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

you bring your people to faith  
and fill them with your presence.  
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.  
Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that banquet  
where your saints feast for ever  
in your heavenly home.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**All: Amen.**

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.

**All: Amen.**

*We stand to sing the second hymn.*

## Registration of the Marriage.

*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 of Marriage.**

*The husband and wife kneel and hold hands.*

*The minister addresses the people.*

In the presence of God, and before this congregation,  
N and N 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 rings.

I therefore proclaim that they are husband and wife.

*The minister joins their hands together and says:*

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

### **The Blessing of the Marriage.**

God of life and beginnings,  
you created man and woman in your likeness  
and joined them together in union of body and heart;  
God of love and forgiveness,  
you loved us in Jesus Christ  
who humbled himself to death on a cross;  
God of grace and strength,

### **The Declarations of Consent.**

*The minister says to the congregation:*

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

*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; therefore if either of you knows a  
reason why you may not lawfully marry, you must declare it  
now.

*The minister says to the bridegroom:*

N, will you take N 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 ?

*He answers*

**I will.**

*The minister says to the bride:*

N, will you take N 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 ?

*She answers:*

**I will.**

*The minister says to the congregation:*

Will you, the families and friends of N and N,  
support and uphold them in their marriage  
now and in the years to come?

*All reply:*

**We will.**

*The minister invites the congregation to pray for the couple using this prayer:*

**All:                    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.**

### The Marriage Vows.

N and N, I now invite you to join hands and make your vows, in the presence of God and his people.

*The couple face each other and hold hands.*

*The bridegroom says to the bride:*

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.  
In the presence of God I make this vow.

*Still holding hands, the bride says to the bridegroom:*

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.  
In the presence of God I make this vow.

### The Giving of Rings

*The minister receives the rings and blesses them:*

Heavenly Father, source of everlasting love, revealed to us in Jesus Christ and poured into our hearts through your Holy Spirit; that love which many waters cannot quench, neither floods drown; that love which is patient and kind, enduring all things without end; by your blessing let these rings be to N and N symbols of unending love and faithfulness, to remind them of the vow and covenant made this day, through your grace, in the love of your Son, and in the power of your Spirit. **All: 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.