

This is an outline of a standard Christian wedding service.

*Additions and changes can be made to customize your wedding service
in consultation with the Pastor.*

*Both words and actions consistently reflect the belief that the couple are
equal partners in Christian marriage and that they are entering into the
marriage of their own volition.*

*Customs from other traditions can be included with the understanding
that this is a Christian service of worship.*

THE WEDDING OF

AND

LOCATION: _____

DATE: _____

GATHERING

Seating of honored guests.

Procession of all members of the wedding party.

GREETING

Friends, we are gathered together in the sight of God
to witness and bless the joining together of

and _____
in Christian marriage.

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.

_____ and _____ come to give themselves
to one another in this holy covenant.

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

I ask you now, in the presence of God and these people,
to declare your intention to enter into union with each other.

To Bride:

_____, will you have _____, 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.**

To Groom:

_____, will you have _____, 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.**

RESPONSE OF THE FAMILIES AND PEOPLE

To the parents (or representatives of the families):

Will the parents of _____ and _____ please stand?

The marriage of _____ and _____ unites their families
and creates a new one.

Will you rejoice in their union
and pray God's blessing upon them?

Parents: **We will.**

To the congregation:

Will all gathered please stand?

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.**

PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

READINGS

*At least one reading from the Bible (Old or New Testament) will be read.
Some possible readings include (but are not limited to):*

Genesis 1:26-28, 31a

Ruth 1:16-17

Proverbs 3:3-6

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Song of Solomon 2:10-14, 16a

Song of Solomon 8:6-7

Isaiah 55:10-13

Isaiah 61:10-62:5

Romans 12:1-2, 9-18

1 Corinthians 13

2 Corinthians 5:14-17

Ephesians 2:4-10

Ephesians 4:1-6

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Philippians 2:1-2

Philippians 4:4-9

Colossians 3:12-17

1 John 3:18-24

1 John 4:7-16

Matthew 5:1-10

Matthew 7:21, 24-27

Matthew 22:35-40

Mark 2:18-22

Mark 10:42-45

John 2:1-11

John 15:9-17

*Other readings, such as passages from literature or poetry,
are possible in consultation with the Pastor.*

SERMON

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Eternal God, Creator and Preserver of all life,

Author of salvation, Giver of all grace:

Bless and sanctify with your Holy Spirit

_____ and _____, 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 one another all their days,

that they may reach out

in concern and service to the world;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PERSONAL STATEMENTS (optional)

THE VOWS

To Groom:

_____, repeat after me.

In the name of God,
I, _____, take you,
_____,
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.

I, _____, take you,
_____,
to be my wife,
before God and these witnesses,
to be your loving and faithful
husband,
in plenty and in want,
in joy and in sorrow,
in sickness and in health,
as long as we both shall live.

To Bride:

_____, repeat after me.

In the name of God,
I, _____, take you,
_____,
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.

I, _____, take you,
_____,
to be my husband,
before God and these witnesses,
to be your loving and faithful wife,
in plenty and in want,
in joy and in sorrow,
in sickness and in health,
as long as we both shall live.

BLESSING AND EXCHANGE OF RINGS

These rings are the outward and visible sign
of an inward and spiritual grace,
signifying to all the uniting of _____ and _____
in holy marriage.

Let us pray.

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.

Bride places the ring on Groom's finger and repeats after Pastor:

_____, 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.

Groom places the ring on Bride's finger and repeats after Pastor:

_____, 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.

OTHER SYMBOLS OF UNITING (optional)

Handfasting, Unity Candle, Sand Ceremony, etc.

DECLARATION OF THE MARRIAGE

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

Now that _____ and _____ have given themselves to each other
by solemn vows,
with the joining of hands,
and the giving and receiving of rings,
[and any other symbol of uniting]

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.

BLESSING OF THE MARRIAGE

Let us pray.

Most Gracious God,
we give you thanks for your tender love
in making us a covenant people
through our Savior Jesus Christ
and for consecrating in his name
the marriage covenant of _____ and _____.

Grant that their love for each other
may reflect the love of Christ for us
and grow from strength to strength
as they faithfully serve you in the world.

Defend them from every enemy.

Lead them into all peace.

Let their love for each other
be a seal upon their hearts,
a mantle about their shoulders,
and a crown upon their heads.

Bless them
in their working and in their companionship;
in their sleeping and in their waking;
in their joys and in their sorrows;
in their lives and in their deaths.

Give to them, if it is your will, the gift of children, (optional)
and the wisdom to bring them up to know you,
to love you, and to serve you.

Grant that all who have witnessed this wedding
may find their lives strengthened,
and that all who are married
may depart with their own promises renewed.

Finally, by your grace,
bring them and all of us to that table
where your saints feast for ever
in your heavenly home;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit
lives and reigns,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION (optional)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

To Bride and Groom:

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.

To those gathered:

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.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NEWLY WED

I now present to you, for the first time,
Mr. and Mrs. _____.
(*using married surname*)

You may kiss.

GOING FORTH

Wedding party departs and guests are dismissed.