

# THE WEDDING SERVICE *(example)*

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## GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

*The celebrant welcomes the couple and the members of the congregation.*

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

*People say:* **And also with you.**

*Priest says:* God is love, and those who live in love live in God, and God loves in them. *1 John 4:16*

*Minister says:*

We have come together in the presence of God to witness the marriage of **N and N**, and to ask God's blessing on them as we share their joy. Marriage is a gift of God our creator. It is a symbol of God's unending love for his people, and of the union between Christ and his Church. Christ loved his bride the Church, and gave himself for her. As he has called **N and N** to marriage, so he draws their differing gifts and hopes into a unity of love and service.

Scripture teaches that marriage is a lifelong partnership uniting a woman and a man in heart, mind and body. In the joy of their union, husband and wife enrich and respond to each other, growing in tenderness and understanding. Through marriage a new family is formed, where children may be born and grow in secure and loving care. Marriage is therefore to be honoured by all. No one should enter it lightly or selfishly, but responsibly and joyfully, with mutual respect and the promise to be faithful.

So let us pray with **N and N** as they prepare to exchange their solemn vows:

Blessed are you, loving God, your Spirit binds us together.

*People say:* **Crown our lives with your goodness; sustain us all our days with your love.**

Bless **N and N** with wisdom and pleasure. Be their friend and companion in joy, their comfort in need and in sorrow. And when this life is ended welcome them into your presence, there with all your people to praise your holy name:

*People say:* **Blessed be God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen**

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

### PSALM 100

Read by.....

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

**THE SERMON:** *by the Reverend Canon Jeff Richardson*

## THE WEDDING

*Celebrant asks:*

N, will you give yourself to N, to be her husband ...

**...I will.**

N, will you give yourself to N, to be his wife ...

**...I will.**

Families and friends,

You are witnesses to these vows.

Will you do everything in your power

to uphold N and N in their marriage?

**We will.**

## **THE EXCHANGE OF WEDDING VOWS**

### **BLESSING & RECEIVING OF THE RING/S**

*Celebrant says:*

Before God and in the presence of us all,  
**N and N** have joined hands  
and made their solemn vows,  
promising life-long faithfulness to each other.  
In the name of God,  
I declare them to be husband and wife.

What God has joined together,  
let no one separate.

God the Father lovingly enfold you,  
God the Son grace your home and table,  
God the Holy Spirit crown you with joy and peace.  
The Lord bless you and deep you in eternal life. **Amen**

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Following the prayers, the minister will say:

Accept our prayers, loving God, through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who taught us to pray:

*All Say*

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done.  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen**

The newly wedded couple sign the marriage Certificates' and Register.  
*Members of the congregation are welcome to come forward to take photographs.*

*The Couple stand before the priest for the final blessing and dismissal*

The God of steadfastness and encouragement  
grant you to live in such harmony with one another,  
in accord with Christ Jesus,  
that together you may with one voice  
glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord  
*All say: In the name of Christ. Amen*