

## **The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage**

Dearly beloved: We have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of this man and this woman in Holy Matrimony. The bond and covenant of marriage was established by God in creation, and our Lord Jesus Christ adorned this manner of life by his presence and first miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. It signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church, and Holy Scripture commends it to be honored among all people.

If there is a 'giving away' or presentation of the Bride it is inserted here:

Who gives this woman to be wed?

The Bride is led by the Groom to stand before the officiant

The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and, when it is God's will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord. Therefore marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God.

Into this holy union (Bride) and (Groom) now come to be joined. If any of you can show just cause why they may not lawfully be married, speak now; or else forever hold your peace.

Then the Officiant says to the persons to be married

I require and charge you both, here in the presence of God, that if either of you know any reason why you may not be united in marriage lawfully, and in accordance with God's Word, you do now confess it.

## **The Declaration of Consent**

The Officiant says to the woman

(Bride), will you have this man to be your husband; to live together in the covenant of 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?

The Woman answers

I will.

The Officiant says to the man

(Groom), will you have this woman to be your wife; to live  
together in the covenant of 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?

The Man answers

I will.

The Officiant then addresses the congregation, saying

Will all of you witnessing these promises do all in your  
power to uphold these two persons in their marriage?

People We will.

## The Ministry of the Word

Let us pray.

O gracious and everliving God, you have created us male and  
female in your image: Look mercifully upon this man and this  
woman who come to you seeking your blessing, and assist  
them with your grace, that with true fidelity and steadfast love  
they may honor and keep the promises and vows they make;  
through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with  
you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

Listed here are two traditional Christian wedding readings. You may use any readings of your choosing. It is suggested that you have members of your family and/or friends do the readings.

### **1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; 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 the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.

When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

### **Mark 10:6-9,13-16**

But from the beginning of creation, “God made them male and female.” “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.’

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, ‘Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.’ And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

## **The Marriage**

The Man, facing the woman and taking her right hand in his, says

In the Name of God, I, (Groom), take you, (Bride), 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.

Then they loose their hands, and the Woman, still facing the man, takes his right hand in hers, and says

In the Name of God, I, (Bride), take you, (Groom), 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.

The loose their hands.

The Officiant then quietly requests the rings be given to him.

The Officiant may ask God's blessing on a ring or rings as follows

Bless, O Lord, this ring to be a sign of the vows by which this man and this woman have bound themselves to each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The giver places the ring on the ring-finger of the other's hand and says

N., I give you this ring as a symbol 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 (or in the Name of God).

One of the following ceremonies may be inserted at this point

### **Sand Ceremony**

Today, this relationship is symbolized through the pouring of these two individual containers of sand one, representing you (Bride) and all that you were, all that you are, and all that you will ever be, and the other representing you, (Groom), and all that you were and all that you are, and all that you will ever be. As these two containers of sand are poured into the third container, the individual containers of sand will no longer exist, but will be joined together as one. Just as these grains of sand can never be separated and poured again into the individual containers, so will your marriage be.

### **Unity Candle Ceremony**

(Groom) and (Bride) the two lighted candles symbolize your separate lives, your separate families and your separate sets of friends. I ask that you each take one candle and that together you light the center candle. The individual candles represent your individual lives before today. Lighting the center candle represents that your two lives are

now joined to one light, and represents the joining together of your two families and sets of friends to one.

Then the Officiant joins the right hands of husband and wife and says

Now that (Groom) and (Bride) have given themselves to each other by solemn vows, with the joining of hands and the giving and receiving of a ring, I pronounce 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.

### The Prayers

All standing, the Officiant says

Let us pray together in the words our Savior taught us.

People and Officiant

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,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

Let us pray.

Grant that the bonds of our common humanity, by which all

your children are united one to another, and the living to the dead, may be so transformed by your grace, that your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven; where, O Father, with your Son, and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign in perfect unity, now and for ever. Amen.

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

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with his favor look upon you, and fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace; that you may faithfully live together in this life, and in the age to come have life everlasting. Amen.

Ladies and Gentlemen: I present to you (use the presentation form you choose)

Some suggested presentations:

Mr. and Mrs. Bob and Jane Smith

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Smith

Mr. and Ms. Bob Smith and Jane Doe

You may use any permutation of the above that you choose or any other sort of presentation you decide upon. These are just suggestions.