

MARRIAGE SERVICE

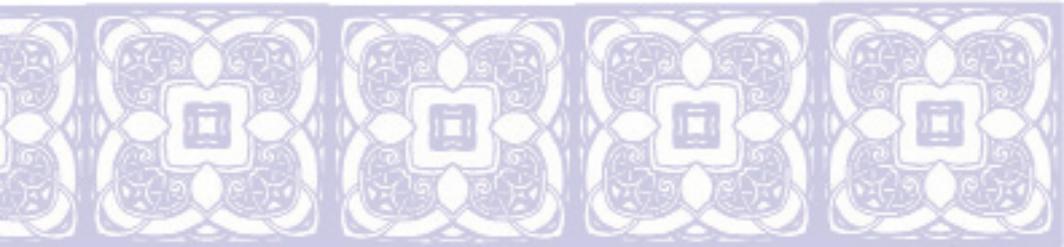
ORDER OF WORSHIP



*Marriage Liturgy from
"Inclusive Marriage Services:
A Wedding Sourcebook"
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MARRIAGE LITURGY

GATHERING

PROCESSIONAL

- Groom, Best Man, Minister
- Groomsmen
- Bridesmaids
- Bride

OPENING STATEMENT

Sisters and brothers, We are gathered here to celebrate the marriage of _____ and _____, to witness the vows they make to one another, to pledge our support and encouragement, and to see God's blessing upon their holy union.

God created us for companionship and gave us the capacity for joy.

Jesus Christ showed us self-giving love and taught us continually to forgive, and the Holy Spirit, given in our baptism, renews grace within us day by day and enables us to grow in faith, in hope, and in love.

Marriage is a gift and a calling in which two people become for one another a source of love, a fount of blessing, and a deep well of grace ... bearing each other's burdens and sharing in each other's joys.

As _____ and _____ commit their lives to one another, families are joined, friendships are forged and strengthened, and a new community of love is formed.

As we bear witness to the vows being made today, let us surround _____ and _____ with affection and prayer, giving thanks for all the ways that God's love is made manifest in our lives.

DECLARATION OF INTENT

_____, do you freely choose _____ and intend to enter the covenant of marriage?
I do.

_____, do you freely choose _____ and intend to enter the covenant of marriage?
I do.

AFFIRMATION OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Do all of you, the family and friends of _____ and _____, pledge to uphold them in their marriage and encourage them in their life together?
We do.

PRAYER

God of life and love, thank you for leading _____ and _____ to one another, for planting in them the seeds of mutual love, and bringing them to this day of promise making.

We love because you first loved us; we dare to make vows because you have made a covenant with us. In Jesus Christ, you showed us how to give of ourselves to others and taught us how to forgive.

Shine your light on us today, and especially upon _____ and _____, as they bind themselves to one another. By your Spirit may they know the promise of your deep and abiding love this day, and through all the days to come. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF THE BRIDE

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

SERMON (*optional*)

VOWS

_____, I bind myself to you this day and promise to love you and cherish you, to support you and comfort you, to honor you and keep faith with you as long as we both shall live.

EXCHANGE OF RINGS

With this ring, I thee wed.

PRAYER

Eternal God,
we give you thanks for all the way you fill our lives

with love, and especially for the love you have given to _____ and _____.

Bless them in their life together, that their love for one another may deepen and their trust in you may grow.

Give them wisdom in their common life and nurture in them the gift of your grace, that together they may learn to love with an everlasting love. When they hurt one another, enable them to show mercy.

Cultivate in them a habit of forgiveness, and lead them into ever-deepening and mutual self-giving.

Teach them to honor one another in all things and enable them to keep the vows they have made this day through whatever joys they share or troubles that befall them.

May this marriage be a gift to all who know _____ and _____.

Make their life together an expression of your own love for this world, that in their esteem for one another, their relationships with neighbors, and their service to those in need, all who know them will catch a glimpse of your coming reign of justice, peace, and love.

Bless those gathered here today, that all who witness these vows may find their hope renewed and know the depth of your love and care for them and for this world you cherish.

All praise to you, triune God, who created us for love,

became love for the world, and nurtures love in us all.
Amen.

DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE

_____ and _____ have made promises to one another in the presence of God and this assembly and have sealed those promises with the giving and receiving of rings. Let their marriage be held in honor by all.

CHARGE, *from Romans 12*

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.

BLESSING

May the grace of Christ attend you, the love of God surround you, and the Holy Spirit keep you, this day and forevermore. Amen.

KISS

PROCESSIONAL

POSSIBLE WEDDING SCRIPTURES

Old Testament

Genesis 1:26-31

Genesis 2:18-24

Ruth 1:16-17

Song of Solomon 8:6-7

Proverbs 3:3-6

Psalms 8

Psalms 46

Psalms 67

Psalms 117

Psalms 139

Psalms 147: 7-11

Isaiah 54:5-8

Jeremiah 29:11-14

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Lamentations 3:21-26

Humankind created in the image of God

Bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh

Where you go, I will go

Set me as a seal upon your heart

Trust the Lord with all your heart

Mortals crowned with glory

The Lord is our refuge and strength

May God be gracious to us

Great is God's steadfast love

The Lord knit us together in the womb

The Lord loves those who fear him

Your Maker is your husband

The Lord has plans for you

The Lord will make a new covenant

For everything there is a season... a time to love

Two are better than one

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases

New Testament

Matt 19:3-6

Mark 10:6-9

John 2:1-11

John 4:7-11

John 15:5-12, 16-17

Romans 8:35, 37-39

Romans 12:9-18

I Corinthians 13

Ephesians 3:14-19

Philippians 1:9-11

Philippians 4:4-8

Philippians 2:1-2

Colossians 3:12-17

I John 4:7-12

Revelation 19:1, 5-9

No longer two, but one flesh

What God has joined, let no one separate

The wedding at Cana

Living water

Jesus, the true vine

Nothing can separate us from the love of God

A living sacrifice...let love be genuine

Faith, hope and love...greatest is love

Remain rooted and grounded in love

That your love may overflow more and more

Do not worry about anything

Make my joy complete

Clothe yourselves with love

Let us love one another...God is love

Rejoicing at the marriage of the Lamb

