

# AN ORDER OF CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

**ALL STAND** at entry of the Bridal Party

## I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

### 1. Priest *(To the Couple)*

N. and N., we are glad to join with you in the celebration of your marriage:  
To witness your vows,  
To pray with you,  
To wish you joy in your future life together.

### 2. Priest *(To the Congregation)*

We have come together in the presence of God to witness and celebrate the marriage of N and N, and to pray God's blessing upon them now and in the years ahead.

Marriage is a gift of God our Creator, whose intention is that husband and wife should be united in heart, body and mind. In their union they fulfil their love for each other.

Marriage is a way of life to be upheld and honoured. No one should enter into it lightly. It involves a serious and life-long commitment to each other's good in a union of strength, sympathy and delight.

### 3. Priest

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. Amen.

## II. THE DECLARATIONS

4. **Priest** *(To the Bridegroom)*

N. will you have N. to be your wife, to live together in Christian marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honour and keep her, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

**Bridegroom:** I will with the help of God

5. **Priest** *(To the Bride)*

N. will you have N. to be your husband, to live together in Christian marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honour 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 with the help of God

6. **Priest** Who gives N to be married to N?

**Father or Friend:** I do

( and / or - this next paragraph is optional )

**Priest** As N and N enter a new life together, will you, their parents, give them your blessing?

**The Parents say to the Couple**

May God bless you both

7. **Priest** *(To the Wedding Party and the whole Congregation)*

Will you who have come to witness this exchange of vows do all in your power to support and uphold this marriage now and in the years ahead?

**People** **We Will**

**8. Priest** Let us pray.

Eternal God, creator and sustainer of us all, give your grace to N and N. Grant that in the years ahead they may be faithful to the vows they make this day, and that in the strength of the Holy Spirit they may grow together in the love, joy and peace of our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **III. THE READINGS**

- 9.** There are one or more readings from Scripture at this point hymns, anthems or items may be sung. - (you can insert the Bible Reading reference etc here. )

### **IV. THE MARRIAGE**

*The Bride and the Bridegroom face each other and join hands.*

**10. Bridegroom**

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, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

- 11. Bride** 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, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

**12. Priest** Bless, merciful Lord, this ring (these rings);  
May -- (N) who gives it and (N) who wears it --  
or -- N & N who give them and wear them --  
Be faithful to each other and continue in love,  
To their lives' end,  
In the power of the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**13.** *The giver places the ring on the other's finger and says*

N. with this ring I marry you, with my body I honour you and I share with you all that I have.

**14. Priest** *(joining their right hands)*

Now that N and N have given themselves to each other by solemn vows, with the joining of hands and the giving and receiving of a ring (rings), I pronounce that they are husband and wife, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Let no one come between those whom God has joined together.

**People** **Amen**

*The husband and wife kneel.*

**15. Priest** May the power of God the Father keep you,  
May the love of God the Son be in your life and work together,  
May the grace of God the Holy Spirit fulfil your love that it may endure for ever;  
And may the Lord, Almighty and Merciful, bless you, strengthen you, and protect you all the days of your life.

**People** **Amen**

## V. THE PRAYERS

### KNEEL

Priest       The Lord be with you.  
**People**      **The Lord bless you.**  
Priest       As our Lord has taught us, we pray together

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.

*Some of the following prayers may be said*

**Priest**       Almighty God, giver of life and love, bless N and N whom you have now joined in Christian marriage. Grant them wisdom and devotion in their life together that each may be to the other a strength in need, a guide in perplexity, a comfort in sorrow, and a companion in joy. So unite their wills in your will, and their spirits in your spirit, that they may live and grow together in love and peace all the days of their life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

**Priest**       Almighty God, Creator of mankind, the source of all life, grant to N and N the gift and heritage of children, and the grace to nurture them in the knowledge and love of your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

**Priest**       Lord God, you have consecrated the state of marriage to be a sign of the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church. Bless these your servants, that they may love, honour, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, and that theirs may be a home of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Priest** Father of all, we thank you for this new family, and for everything these parents and their children have to share; by your Spirit of peace draw them together and help them be true friends to one another. Let your love surround them and your care protect them, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Priest** God, the author of love, we pray for all who are married. Through their love for each other may they know the reality of your love for the whole world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Priest** All praise and glory to you most gracious God, for in the beginning you created us men and women. Grant your blessing then, we pray, to N and N so that in marriage they may be a source of blessing to each other and to all, and live together in holy love until their lives' end. **Amen.**

**Priest** The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you now and for ever. **Amen.**

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## **“STANDING TOGETHER”**

Tune: Morning has Broken

Standing together, facing the future  
Sure of each other, glad in our love.  
Say hope is golden, say it is dream time,  
Pray for our future, pray for our love.

Standing together, promising truly,  
We will stand loyal, we understand.  
Say love is joyous, say it's enchantment,  
Pray for our promise, pray for our love.

Love is for sharing, Love is for giving,  
Now and forever, near and away.  
Standing together, each will be strengthened,  
Pray for our Marriage, pray for our love.