**A Wedding**

Preface

In the presence of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we have come together to witness the marriage of THE GROOM and THE BRIDE, to pray for God's blessing on them, to share their joy and to celebrate their love.

Marriage is a gift of God in creation through which husband and wife may know the grace of God. It is given that as man and woman grow together in love and trust, they shall be united with one another in heart, body and mind, as Christ is united with his bride, the Church.

The gift of marriage brings husband and wife together in the delight and tenderness of sexual union and joyful commitment to the end of their lives. It is given as the foundation of family life
in which children are born and nurtured and in which each member of the family, in good times and in bad, may find strength, companionship and comfort, and grow to maturity in love.

Marriage is a way of life made holy by God, and blessed by the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ with those celebrating a wedding at Cana in Galilee.

Marriage is a sign of unity and loyalty which all should uphold and honour. It enriches society and strengthens community. No one should enter into it lightly or selfishly but reverently and responsibly in the sight of almighty God.

THE GROOM and THE BRIDE are now to enter this way of life.

They will each give their consent to the other and make solemn vows, and in token of this they will each give and receive a ring.
We pray with them that the Holy Spirit will guide and strengthen them, that they may fulfil God's purposes for the whole of their earthly life together.

**The Declarations**

*The minister says to the congregation*

First, I am required to ask anyone present who knows a reason why these persons may not lawfully marry, to declare it now.

*The minister says to the couple*

The vows you are about to take are to be made in the presence of God, who is judge of all and knows all the secrets of our hearts; therefore if either of you knows a reason why you may not lawfully marry, you must declare it now.

*The minister says to the bridegroom*

THE GROOM, will you take THE BRIDE to be your wife?

Will you love her, comfort her, honour and protect her, and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

**I will.**

*The minister says to the bride*

THE BRIDE, will you take THE GROOM to be your husband?

Will you love him, comfort him, honour and protect him,
and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

**I will.**

*The minister says to the congregation*

Will you, the families and friends of THE BRIDE and THE GROOM, support and uphold them in their marriage now and in the years to come?

**We will.**

**The Marriage**

*The couple stand before the minister.*

Giving Away

Who gives this woman to be married to this man?

*The Father of the Bride steps forward and says…*

I do.

The Vows

GROOM and BRIDE, I now invite you to join hands and make your vows, in the presence of God and his people.

*The bride and bridegroom face each other.   The bridegroom takes the bride's right hand in his.*

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,
till death us do part;
according to God's holy law.
In the presence of God I make this vow.

*They loose hands.*

*The bride takes the bridegroom's right hand in hers, and says*

I, THE BRIDE

take you, THE 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,
till death us do part;
according to God's holy law.
In the presence of God I make this vow.

*They loose hands.*

The Giving of Rings

Who has the rings?

*The best man step forward and the minister receives the rings, and prays this prayer.*

Heavenly Father, by your blessing let these rings be to THE GROOM and THE BRIDE a symbol of unending love and faithfulness, to remind them of the vow and covenant which they have made this day through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*The bridegroom places the ring on the fourth finger of the bride's left hand and, holding it there, says*

THE BRIDE, I give you this ring
as a sign of our marriage.
With my body I honour you,
all that I am I give to you,
and all that I have I share with you,
within the love of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

*If rings are exchanged, they loose hands and the bride places a ring on the fourth finger of the bridegroom's left hand and, holding it there, says*

THE GROOM, I give you this ring
as a sign of our marriage.
With my body I honour you,
all that I am I give to you,
and all that I have I share with you,
within the love of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Proclamation

*The couple hold hands and the minister addresses the people*

In the presence of God, and before this congregation, THE GROOM and THE BRIDE have given their consent and made their marriage vows to each other.

They have declared their marriage by the joining of hands and by the giving and receiving of rings.

I therefore proclaim that they are husband and wife.

*The minister holds up their right hands together and says*

Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

The Blessing of the Marriage

*The husband and wife kneel.*

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, for you have created joy and gladness, pleasure and delight, love, peace and fellowship. Pour out the abundance of your blessing upon THE GROOM and THE BRIDE in their new life together.

Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts and a crown upon their heads. Bless them in their work and in their companionship; awake and asleep, in joy and in sorrow, in life and in death.

Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that banquet where your saints feast for ever in your heavenly home. We ask this through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

*The minister says to the couple*

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve and keep you; the Lord mercifully grant you the riches of his grace, that you may please him both in body and soul, and, living together in faith and love, may receive the blessings of eternal life. **Amen.**