Wedding Service Template

The people stand at the invitation of the minister

**Processional**

**Welcome and Preface**

We have come together in the presence of God to witness the marriage of **(bride and groom)** and to ask God’s blessing on them as we share their joy.

Marriage is a gift of God our creator, a symbol of God’s unending love for his people, and a picture of the relationship between Christ and his Church. Christ loved his bride the Church, and gave himself for her.

As God has called **(bride and groom)** 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.

**(Bride and groom)** have now come here to be joined in this holy union to which God has led them. They seek his blessing on their life together, that they may fulfil his purpose for them; and they ask us to support them in this prayer.

If anyone can show why they may not lawfully be joined in marriage, speak now, or hereafter remain in silence.

So let us pray with **(bride and groom)**

as they prepare to exchange their solemn vows:

 **God our Father, in your great love**

 **you have given us the gift of marriage;**

 **so bless** **(bride and groom)**

 **as they pledge their lives to each other,**

 **that their love may evermore grow**

 **to be the true reflection of your love for us all;**

 **through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**[Hymn]**

Please be seated for the reading

**Scripture Readings**

Eg Ephesians 3:14-19

Read by

Eg 1 Corinthians 13:4-13

Read by

After each reading, the reader/s says

Hear the word of the Lord,

**Thanks be to God**

**Address**

~8min homily by the minister, based on the Scripture readings.

**Wedding**

**The Consent**

Celebrant:

**(Groom)**, will you give yourself to **(bride)**,

to be her husband,

to live with her according to God’s word?

Will you love her, comfort her,

honour and protect her,

and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her

so long as you both shall live?

 **I will.**

**(Bride)**, will you give yourself to **(groom)**,

to be his wife,

to live with him according to God’s word?

Will you love him, comfort him,

honour and protect him,

and forsaking all others, be faithful to him

so long as you both shall live?

 **I will.**

The congregation stands and the celebrant says

Families and friends,

you are witnesses to these vows.

Will you do everything in your power

to uphold **(bride and groom)** in their marriage?

 **We will**

Groom, taking bride’s hand in his, says

**The Vows**

I, **(Groom)**, in the presence of God,

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,

so long as we both shall live.

All this I vow and promise.

Bride taking groom’s hand in hers, says

I, (**Bride)**, in the presence of God,

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,

so long as we both shall live.

All this I vow and promise.

**The Giving and Receiving of Rings**

Celebrant:

God of steadfast love,

by your blessing,

let these rings be

for **(bride and groom)**

a symbol of their love and faithfulness

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Groom and bride will say as the rings are exchanged

I give you this ring

as a symbol of our marriage.

With all that I am and all that I have

I honour you; in the name of God. **Amen.**

Before they loose hands, the groom and bride may respond

I receive this ring

as a symbol of your love and faithfulness

to the end of our days.

Celebrant:

Before God and in the presence of us all,

**(Bride and groom)** 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 keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

**Prayers**

Please kneel or sit for the prayers

Blessed are you, loving God,

your spirit binds us together.

Crown our lives with your goodness;

sustain us all our days with your love.

Bless **(bride and groom)** 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.

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

**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 forever. Amen.**

**Lord of the universe,**

**all love, strength and understanding come from you;**

**so direct and govern us in body and soul**

**that we may strive to live according to your word**

**and to do everything that is agreeable to your will:**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**[Hymn]**

**The Signing of the Register**

**The Blessing**

All stand as the priest addresses the congregation

May the faithful God grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus,

that you may with one voice glorify God:

And the blessing of God,

the creator and redeemer,

the giver of life and love,

be with you,

now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Recessional**