

## ¶ Pastoral Introduction

*This may be read by those present before the service begins.*

A wedding is one of life's great moments, a time of solemn commitment as well as good wishes, feasting and joy. St John tells us how Jesus shared in such an occasion at Cana, and gave there a sign of new beginnings as he turned water into wine.

Marriage is intended by God to be a creative relationship, as his blessing enables husband and wife to love and support each other in good times and in bad, and to share in the care and upbringing of children. For Christians, marriage is also an invitation to share life together in the spirit of Jesus Christ. It is based upon a solemn, public and life-long covenant between a man and a woman, declared and celebrated in the presence of God and before witnesses.

On this their wedding day the bride and bridegroom face each other, make their promises and receive God's blessing. You are witnesses of the marriage, and express your support by your presence and your prayers. Your support does not end today: the couple will value continued encouragement in the days and years ahead of them.

*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.*

*1 Corinthians 13.4-7*

## Alternative 'Giving Away'

*The minister may ask the parents of bride and bridegroom in these or similar words*

N and N have declared their intention towards each other,  
As their parents,  
will you entrust your son and daughter to one another  
as they come to be married?

*Both sets of parents respond*

**We will.**

## Additional prayers of blessing

Blessed are you, heavenly Father.

*All* **You give joy to bridegroom and bride.**

Blessed are you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*All* **You bring life to the world.**

Blessed are you, Holy Spirit of God.

*All* **You bind us together in love.**

Blessed are you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

## Authorization

The Common Worship Marriage Service is authorized pursuant to Canon B 2 of the Canons of the Church of England for use from Advent 2000 until further resolution of the General Synod

## Acknowledgements

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