

## The Vows

*The minister introduces the vows in these or similar words*

N and N, 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.*

*These words, or the authorized alternative ones, are used*

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,  
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, 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,  
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

*The minister receives the ring(s), and says this prayer  
or the alternative prayer*

Heavenly Father, by your blessing  
let *these rings* be to N and N  
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.

All **Amen.**

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

N, 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*

N, 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 only one ring is to be used, before they loose hands the bride says*

N, I receive 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 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*

N, will you take N 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?

*He answers*

I will.

*The minister says to the bride*

N, will you take N 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?

*She answers*

I will.

*The minister says to the congregation*

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

*All* **We will.**

## The Blessing of the Marriage

*The husband and wife kneel. The minister may use the following blessing or one of the alternatives.*

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 N and N 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.

*All* **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.

*All* **Amen.**

*A hymn or psalm may be used.*

# The Marriage Service

## ¶ Introduction

### The Welcome

*The minister welcomes the people using these or other appropriate words*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with you

All **and also with you.**

*This sentence may be used*

God is love, and those who live in love live in God  
and God lives in them.

*1 John 4.16*

*This prayer may be said*

All **God of wonder and of joy:  
grace comes from you,  
and you alone are the source of life and love.  
Without you, we cannot please you;  
without your love, our deeds are worth nothing.  
Send your Holy Spirit,  
and pour into our hearts  
that most excellent gift of love,  
that we may worship you now  
with thankful hearts  
and serve you always with willing minds;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

*A hymn may be sung.*

May they nurture their family with devotion,  
see their children grow in body, mind and spirit  
and come at last to the end of their lives  
with hearts content and in joyful anticipation of heaven.  
Lord of life and love:

All **hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude with the Lord's Prayer.*

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All **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.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

*(or)*

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

*A hymn may be sung.*