

INTRODUCTION

The priest says to the congregation

We have gathered to celebrate the marriage of Heather and Joseph. Marriage is the promise of hope between two people who love each other, who trust that love, and who wish to share the future together.

It enables two separate people to share their desires, longings, dreams and memories, and to help each other through their uncertainties. It provides the encouragement to risk more and thus to gain more. In marriage, the two belong together, providing mutual support and a stability in which their children may grow.

Here in the presence of God we recognize and affirm their relationship as they begin their married life in the community.

WELCOME

Priest says to the couple

Heather and Joseph, we welcome you.
We are glad to join with you
In the celebration of your marriage,
To witness your vows, to pray with you,
And to wish you joy in your life together.

The priest says

Oh God, touch us with an awareness of your presence in all the world around us. Awaken in us a sense of wonder that you have created us in love. As we celebrate the marriage of Heather and Joseph, deepen our love for those close to us, and for those who, although strangers, need our concern. Help Heather and Joseph as they commit themselves to each other, and grant us all a heightened sense of joy in life, because we share this moment with them.

The priest and people say together

**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 Heather and Joseph to each other
And for their desire
To share that love
For the rest of their lives.
Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Romans 12: 9-18

DECLARATION AND CONSENT

Priest says to the groom

Joseph, do you love and trust Heather and want to be her husband?

The groom answers

Yes, I do.

The priest asks the groom

Will you stand by her no matter what happens, respecting her as a person, understanding her needs and enjoying her love until death parts you?

The groom answers

Yes, I will.

The priest asks the bride

Heather, do you love and trust Joseph and want to be his wife?

The bride answers

Yes, I do.

The priest asks the bride

Will you stand by him no matter what happens, respecting him as a person, understanding his needs and enjoying his love until death parts you?

The bride answers

Yes, I will.

AFFIRMATION

The priest asks the parents

In your new relationship with Heather and Joseph, do you, as their parents, pledge your loving support?

The parents reply

We do.

The priest asks the parents

Are you willing to strengthen this marriage by upholding both Heather and Joseph with your love and concern?

The parents reply

We are.

The parents may say to the couple

May you find a rich and full life together.

The priest may ask the whole congregation

Will you, their friends and family, do all in your power to support this couple now, and in the years ahead?

The people reply

We will.

THE MARRIAGE

The bride and bridegroom face each other.

The Vows

The groom takes the brides hands in his and says

Heather, I have chosen you to be my wife,
To be with you
Whatever happens to us.
In prosperity and in hardship,
In health and sickness,
In sorrow and in joy,
I will love, protect and serve you
As long as live.
This I vow.

They loose hands.

The bride takes the grooms hands in her and says

Joseph, I have chosen you to be my husband
To be with you
Whatever happens to us.
In prosperity and in hardship,
In health and sickness,
In sorrow and joy,
I will love, protect and serve you
As long as we live.
This I vow.

They loose hands.

THE RINGS

The priest receives the rings and says

Let these rings say to all that your commitment is deep and life-long.

The giver places the ring on the other's finger, holds it there and says

Let this ring symbolize our one life together.

THE PRONOUNCEMENT

The Priest says to the couple

Heather and Joseph, you have declared the love you have for each other and your hopes for the future. You have made promises to each other, and have symbolized them by joining hands and giving rings. You are now husband and wife.

The priest says to the congregation

We have witnessed the promises made by Heather and Joseph, and now recognize them as husband and wife.

GOD'S GUIDANCE

The priest says to the couple

Heather and Joe,
You have committed yourselves
To one another in love,
Joy and tenderness.
Become one.
Fulfill your promises.
And may God's grace
Be with you forever.
Amen.

PRAYERS

The priest says

We pray for Heather and Joseph as they begin their married life. With them we thank you Dear God for the love and care of their parents who have guided them to maturity and prepared them for this commitment and for the love of their extended families and their special friends who have come today to bear witness to their promises before You.

Give them strength to keep the vows they have made and to be loyal and faithful to each other, supporting each other throughout their life, that they may bear each other's burdens and share each other's joys. Help them to be honest and patient with each other and be wise and loving parents. Grant that they may always take delight in each other and give them the courage to meet the heartaches, disappointments and agonies that life can bring. Let your loving wisdom be with Heather and Joseph that they may achieve stability and sweetness in their daily lives. Through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

The priest says

As Christ teaches us, we pray

**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.**

The priest and people pray responsively

Loving Spirit
Grant to Heather and Joseph,
That in giving and forgiving
They may receive from each other lasting joy.
**Bind them together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind them together with love.**

Grant that they may always take delight in each other,
And each remain the other heart's desire.
**Bind them together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind them together with love.**

May the reach such trust and confidences in each other
As shall keep them from unnecessary distress.
May they find courage to meet
The heartaches, disappointments and agonies life can bring.
**Be their rock, their fortress,
For they put their trust in you.**

Help them to look beyond their own family
And their own concerns
To see the world, suffering and struggling,
The world you have given us to share with one another.
Open their eyes and their hearts.

Give them grace to accept that they are mortal,
To face the possibility of death
And the separation it must bring.
Jesus, you are resurrection, you are life.

THE BLESSING

The Marriage Blessing

The priest shall pronounce the marriage blessing

All praise and blessing to you, God of love
Creator of the universe, maker of man and woman in your likeness
Source of blessing for married life.
All praise to you for you have created courtship and marriage,
Joy and gladness, feasting and laughter, pleasure and delight.
May your blessing come in full upon Heather and Joseph.
May they know your presence in their joys and in their sorrows.
May they reach old age in the company of friends
And come at last to your eternal kingdom.
Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

The priest says to the couple

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

The people say

And also with you.

The couple exchange kiss of peace