

WEDDING OF

(names)

date

Time

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL(s)

A

One song during which both groom (and parents?), wedding party and bride (and parents?) process

B.

Groom (and parent?) and wedding party process on one song; bride (and parents) process on second song

WELCOME

INVOCATION

We begin in the name of the Father, and of the son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

INTRODUCTION

A

Dear friends: We have come together in the presence of God to witness the marriage of name and name, to surround them with our prayers, and to share in their joy.

The scriptures teach us that the bond and covenant of marriage is a gift of God, a holy mystery in which two become one flesh, an image of the union of Christ and the church. As name and name give themselves to each other today, we remember that at Cana in Galilee our Lord Jesus Christ made the wedding feast a sign of God's reign of love.

Let us enter into this celebration confident that, through the Holy Spirit, Christ is present with us now also; we pray that this couple may fulfill God's purpose for the whole of their lives.

B

Name and name have come to make their marriage vows in the presence of God and of this congregation. Let us now witness their promises to each other and surround them with our prayers, giving thanks to God for the gift of marriage and asking God's blessing upon them, so that they may be strengthened for their life together and nurtured in their love for God.

We rejoice that marriage is given by God, blessed by our Lord Jesus Christ, and sustained by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, let marriage be held in honor by all.

C

The Lord God in goodness created us male and female, and by the gift of marriage founded human community in a joy that begins now and is brought to perfection in the life to come.

Because of sin, our age-old rebellion, the gladness of marriage can be overcast and the gift of the family can become a burden.

But because God, who established marriage, continues still to bless it with abundant and ever-present support, we can be sustained in our weariness and have our joy restored.

D

Beloved people of God, we have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the covenant of love and fidelity name and name are to make with each other.

The union of two persons in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy, for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and that their love may be a blessing to all whom

they encounter. This solemn covenant is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and with the commitment to seek God's will for their lives.

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

The minister addresses the couple, asking each person in turn:

A

Name, will you have name to be your wife/husband,
to live together in a holy marriage?
Will you love *her/him*, comfort *her/him*, honor and keep *her/him*,
in sickness and in health,
and, forsaking all others, be faithful to *her/him*
as long as you both shall live?

Response: I will.

The minister says to the families:

A

Will you, the families of name and name, give your love and blessing to this new family?

The families respond: We will.

The minister says to the assembly:

Will all of you, by God's grace, do everything in your power
to uphold and care for these two persons in their life together?

We will.

B

P _____ do you intend to share with _____
your joys and sorrows and all that the years will bring?

R: I do.

P _____ do you intend to share with _____
your joys and sorrows and all that the years will bring?

R: I do.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A

Let us pray.

Eternal God, our creator and redeemer, as you gladdened the wedding at Cana in Galilee by the presence of your Son, so bring your joy to this wedding by his presence now. Look in favor upon name and name and grant that they, rejoicing in all your gifts, may at length celebrate the unending marriage feast with Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

B

Gracious God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ into the world to reveal your love to all people. Enrich name and name with every good gift, that their life together may show forth your love; and grant that at the last we may all celebrate with Christ the marriage feast that has no ending; in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

C

Eternal God, creator and sustainer of us all, give your grace to name and name. Grant that in the years ahead they may be faithful to the vows they make this day, and that in the strength of the Holy Spirit they may grow together in the love, joy, and peace of our Savior Jesus Christ

Amen.

** possible place for "special music" – singer or instrumentalist - or hymn for congregation to sing*

BIBLE READINGS (as many or few as you want)

** possible place for a **sermon** - optional, depending on what else the couple chooses as far as options. Some couples want the pastor to preach a sermon, while others may decide that the rest of the service makes for a Christ-centered ceremony, and therefore a sermon is not necessary/desired.*

** possible place for “special music” – singer or instrumentalist - or hymn for congregation to sing*

VOWS

A

In the presence of God and this community,
I, name, take you, name, to be my wife/husband;
to have and to hold from this day forward,
in joy and in sorrow,
in plenty and in want,
in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish,
as long as we both shall live.
This is my solemn vow.

B

I take you, name, to be my wife/husband
from this day forward,
to join with you and share all that is to come,
and I promise to be faithful to you
until death parts us.

C

I, name, give myself to you, name.
By the grace of God,
I promise to support and care for you.
In the love of Christ,
I promise to love and cherish you.
With the Spirit’s help,
I promise to be faithful to you,
as long as we both shall live.

D

I take you, name, to be my wife/husband,
and these things I promise you:
I will be faithful to you and honest with you;
I will respect, trust, help, and care for you;
I will forgive you as we have been forgiven;
and I will share my life with you,
through the best and worst of all that is to come,
until death parts us.

BLESSING OF RINGS

A

Bless these rings, O God; may they who wear them live in love and fidelity, and continue in your service all the days of their lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

B

Gracious God, by your blessing let these rings be to name and name a symbol of their unending love and faithfulness, to remind them of the vow and covenant they have made this day, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

C

We give you thanks, O God of grace, for your love and faithfulness to your people. Bless these rings, that they may be symbols of the enduring commitment name and name have made to each other; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

GIVING OF RINGS

The couple exchange rings with these or similar words:

A

Name, I give you this ring as a sign of my love and faithfulness

B

Name, I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow.
With all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you,
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

Name and name,

by their promises before God and in the presence of this assembly,
have bound themselves to one another as husband and wife.

Those whom God has joined together let no one **separate/put asunder**
Amen.

(UNITY CANDLE/SAND/ ETC) * *possible place for “special music” – singer or instrumentalist - or hymn for congregation to sing*

BLESSING

The couple may kneel as the presiding minister prays for God’s blessing:

A

We give you thanks, most gracious God, for in your great love you created us male and female and made the union of husband and wife an image of the covenant between you and your people. You sent Jesus Christ to come among us, making your love visible in him, to bring new life to the world.

Send your Holy Spirit to pour out the abundance of your blessing on name and name, who have this day given themselves to each other in marriage.

Bless them in their work and in their companionship; in their sleeping and in their waking; in their joys and in their sorrows; in their life and in their death. Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts, a mantle about their shoulders, and a crown upon their foreheads.

Bless them so that all may see in their lives together within the community of your people a vision of your kingdom on earth. And finally, in the fullness of time, welcome them into the glory of your presence.

Through your Son Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit in your holy church all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.

B

When a prayer for children is desired, the following words may be included in the blessing immediately before “Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts”:

Give them the gift and heritage of children in accordance with your will, and make their home a haven of peace.

C

When children are brought into the family of the newly married couple, the following words may be included in the blessing immediately before “Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts”:

You have given them the gift and heritage of children; make their home a haven of peace.

D

Most gracious God, we give you thanks for your tender love in sending Jesus Christ to come among us, to be born of a human mother, and to make the way of the cross to be the way of life.

By the power of your Holy Spirit pour out your abundant blessing upon name and name.
Defend them from every enemy. Lead them into all peace. Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts, a mantle about their shoulders, and a crown upon their foreheads.

** possible place for "special music" – singer or instrumentalist - or hymn for congregation to sing*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Prayers of intercession for the world and its needs are prayed.:

A

Seeing how greatly God has loved us, let us pray for the whole world.

For the Christian community everywhere; for the life and ministry of the baptized, and for pastors, leaders, and servants of the gospel, that the church may be the risen body of Christ in the world. O God, source of all life,

hear our prayer.

For all communities everywhere; for our nation, for all those who govern and for all in authority, and for justice and peace throughout the world. O God, source of all life,

hear our prayer.

For those we love easily, and for those with whom we struggle, for those different from us and for those familiar to us, that we might be instruments of God's peace. O God, source of all life,

hear our prayer.

For those who suffer in any way, and those who are lonely, for the sick, the dying, and those who are bereaved, for those who are poor, hungry, homeless, or unemployed, for the victims of violence, hatred, and intolerance. O God, source of all life,

hear our prayer.

For all those who are bound to us in love; for our families, friends, and neighbors, remembering also all who have gone before us (especially name/s). O God, source of all life,

hear our prayer.

Creator of all, you make us in your image and likeness and fill us with everlasting life. Hear the prayers of your people and grant to name and name grace to live in unity and joy all the days of their lives. We ask this through Jesus Christ, in the Holy Spirit, to whom, with you, one God, be praise forever and ever.

Amen.

B

On this day of rejoicing, let us bless God for divine love made flesh in Jesus Christ.

We praise you, O God, for the joy that name and name have found in each other and pray that the strength of their love may reflect your gracious love and enrich our common life. Gracious and tender God,

hear our prayer.

From your great store of strength give them power and patience, affection and understanding, courage, and love toward you, toward each other, and toward the world. Gracious and tender God,

hear our prayer.

Make them gentle and patient, ready to trust each other, and, when they fail, willing to acknowledge their fault and to give and receive forgiveness. Gracious and tender God,

hear our prayer.

Use us to support *name* and *name* in their lives together. Give us such a sense of your constant love that we may employ all our strength in a life of praise of you. Gracious and tender God,
hear our prayer.

Strengthen and bless friends and family gathered here, call to mind those separated by distance, console those who mourn the loss of loved ones, and be present with those for whom love is a stranger. Gracious and tender God,
hear our prayer.

Look graciously on the world you have made and for which your Son gave his life. Defend and guide all who suffer want or anxiety. Gracious and tender God,
hear our prayer.

We praise you, merciful God, for the saints, those who have died in Christ (especially *name/s*). Strengthen us by their example and bring us all to the marriage feast of the Lamb. Gracious and tender God,
hear our prayer.

Most gracious God, you have made us in your image and given us over to one another's care. Hear the prayers of your people, that unity may overcome division, hope vanquish despair, and joy conquer sorrow; through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

** possible place for "special music" – singer or instrumentalist - or hymn for congregation to sing*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

** possible place for "special music" – singer or instrumentalist - or hymn for congregation to sing*

BENEDICTION

A

God Almighty send you light and truth to keep you all the days of your life. The hand of God protect you; the holy angels accompany you; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever. **Amen.**

B

The blessed and holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace, now and forever. **Amen.**

C

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, keep you in his light and truth and love now and forever.
Amen

** possible place for "special music" – singer or instrumentalist - or hymn for congregation to sing . This is also the space for any "secular" music.*

INTRODUCTION OF COUPLE

It is my privilege/honor to introduce to you.

A

David and Gayle Anderson

B

Mr and Mrs David and Gayle Anderson

C

Mr and Mrs David Anderson

RECESSIONAL

POSTLUDE