

Welcome to Christ Church Portsdown



Example
showing a
Wedding
during a
communion
service
booklet

Please take this order of service away with you after the service, as a memento of today's happy occasion, and as a reminder to continue to support and pray for *n* and *n*

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The Marriage of

N

and

N

Date

At *Time*

Please note:

*To avoid legal issues with licences,
and to enable everyone to participate
in this special service without distraction -
NO photographs or videos
to be taken during the service
except those officially allowed.*

Please switch off all mobile phones.

*Please use as much confetti as you like,
BUT not near the church door*

*No collection is taken during this service.
But, if you wish to leave a thank you offering to God today,
then please use the plate by the door*

THANK YOU

The Marriage Service within a Celebration of Holy Communion

Structure

¶ **The Gathering**

The Welcome
Prayers of Penitence
Preface
The Declarations
The Collect

¶ **The Liturgy of the Word**

Readings
Gospel Reading
Sermon

¶ **The Marriage**

The Vows
The Giving of Rings
The Proclamation
† The Blessing of the Marriage
Registration of the Marriage
Prayers

¶ **The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

The Peace
Preparation of the Table
Taking of the Bread and Wine
The Eucharistic Prayer
The Lord's Prayer
† *The Blessing of the Marriage*
Breaking of the Bread
Giving of Communion
Prayer after Communion

¶ The Dismissal

† indicates alternative position allowed and shown indented in italics

The Marriage Service within a Celebration of Holy Communion

¶ The Gathering

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;

they receive communion soon after their marriage. For some this may make it appropriate for the marriage to take place within the context of a Celebration of Holy Communion.

12 The Marriage Service within a Celebration of Holy Communion

The Notes to the Order for the Celebration of Holy Communion, as well as the Notes to the Marriage Service, apply equally to this service. Texts are suggested at different points, but other suitable texts may be used. Authorized Prayers of Penitence may be used. In the Liturgy of the Word, there should be a Gospel reading, preceded by either one or two other readings from the Bible. If desired, the Blessing of the Marriage may take place between the Lord's Prayer and the Breaking of the Bread.

13 Ecumenical Provisions

Where a minister of another Christian Church is invited to assist at the Solemnization of Matrimony, the permissions and procedures set out in Canon B 43 are to be followed. The Church of England minister who solemnizes the marriage must establish the absence of impediment, direct the exchange of vows, declare the existence of the marriage, say the final blessing, and sign the registers. A minister invited to assist may say all or part of the opening address, lead the declarations of intent, supervise the exchange of rings, and join in the blessing of the marriage. He or she may also read a lesson and lead all or part of the prayers. Where the couple come from different Christian communions the bishop may authorize such variations to the marriage service as are set out in *An Order for the Marriage of Christians from Different Churches*, which is published separately.

Alternatively, after the bride and bridegroom have made their Declarations, 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 now entrust your son and daughter to one another as they come to be married?

Both sets of parents respond:

We will.

7 The Declarations and the Vows

The *Book of Common Prayer* version of the Declarations, and / or the alternative vows on pages 150-151, may be used. The couple repeat the vows after the minister, or may read them. If preferred, the question to the bride, and her vow, may come before the question to the bridegroom and his vow.

8 The Giving of Rings

If desired, the bride and bridegroom may each place a ring on the fourth finger of the other's hand, and may then say together the words 'N, I give you this ring ...'. The prayer on page 151 may be used instead of the prayer on pages 109 and 124.

9 The Prayers

Several forms of intercession are provided. Other suitable forms may be used, especially prayers which the couple have written or selected in co-operation with the minister. Whatever form is used, silence may be kept as part of the intercession. Free prayer may be offered.

10 Registration of the Marriage

The law requires that the Registers are filled in immediately after the solemnization of a marriage. This may take place either after the Proclamation or at the end of the service.

11 Holy Communion

For communicant members of the Church it is appropriate that

through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A hymn may be sung.

Prayers of Penitence

Invitation to Confession

A minister may use these or other suitable words

As we prepare to hear God's word
and to celebrate the marriage of N and N,
we remember our human frailty
and our need for God's help in all that we do.

(or)

Gathered together as God's family,
let us ask forgiveness from our heavenly Father,
for he is full of gentleness and compassion.

(or)

We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden,
to ask for his forgiveness and peace.

Confession and Absolution

Either

All Lord our God,
in our sin we have avoided your call.
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.
Have mercy on us;
deliver us from judgement;
bind up our wounds
and revive us;
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The president says

The Lord forgive *you your* sin,
unite *you* in the love which took Christ to the cross,
and bring *you* in the Spirit to his wedding feast in heaven.

All Amen.

(or)

Lord, in our weakness you are our strength.

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

Lord, when we stumble, you raise us up.

Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

Lord, when we fail, you give us new life.

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

The president says

May God in his goodness forgive *us our* sins,

grant *us* strength in *our* weakness,

and bring *us* to eternal life,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Preface

These words or those on page 136 are used

In the presence of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

we have come together

to witness the marriage of *N* and *N*,

to pray for God's blessing on them,

to share their joy

and to celebrate their love.

Marriage is a gift of God in creation

through which husband and wife may know the grace of God.

It is given

Notes to the Marriage Service

1 Preparation

It is the custom and practice of the Church of England to offer preparation for marriage for couples who are soon to be married, as well as to be available for support and counselling in the years that follow.

2 The Banns

The banns are to be published in the church on three Sundays at the time of Divine Service by the officiant in the form set out in *The Book of Common Prayer* or in the following form:

I publish the banns of marriage between *NN* of ... and *NN* of ...

This is the *first / second / third* time of asking. If any of you know any reason in law why they may not marry each other you are to declare it.

We pray for these couples (*or N and N*) as they prepare for their wedding(s).

A suitable prayer may be said (see page 135).

3 Hymns and Canticles

These may be used at suitable points during the service.

4 Entry

The bride may enter the church escorted by her father or a representative of the family, or the bride and groom may enter church together.

5 Readings and Sermon

At least one reading from the Bible must be used. Suggested readings are printed on pages 137-149. If occasion demands, either the Sermon or the Readings and Sermon may come after the Blessing of the Marriage. Chairs may be provided for the bride and bridegroom.

6 'Giving Away'

This traditional ceremony is optional. Immediately before the couple exchange vows (pages 108 and 123), the minister may ask: Who brings this woman to be married to this man?

The bride's father (or mother, or another member of her family or a friend representing the family) gives the bride's right hand to the minister who puts it in the bridegroom's right hand.

The minister says

The Lord bless you and keep you:

All Amen.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious to you:

All Amen.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace: *Numbers 6.24-26*

All Amen.

The Lord God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
the holy and undivided Trinity,
guard you, save you,
and bring you to that heavenly city,
where he lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All Amen.

that as man and woman grow together in love and trust,
they shall be united with one another in heart, body and mind,
as Christ is united with his bride, the Church.

The gift of marriage brings husband and wife together
in the delight and tenderness of sexual union
and joyful commitment to the end of their lives.

It is given as the foundation of family life
in which children are [born and] nurtured
and in which each member of the family,

in good times and in bad,

may find strength, companionship and comfort,
and grow to maturity in love.

Marriage is a way of life made holy by God,
and blessed by the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ
with those celebrating a wedding at Cana in Galilee.

Marriage is a sign of unity and loyalty
which all should uphold and honour.

It enriches society and strengthens community.

No one should enter into it lightly or selfishly
but reverently and responsibly in the sight of almighty God.

Nand Nare now to enter this way of life.

They will each give their consent to the other
and make solemn vows,

and in token of this they will [each] give and receive a ring.

We pray with them that the Holy Spirit will guide
and strengthen them,

that they may fulfil God's purposes

for the whole of their earthly life together.

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 Collect

*The minister invites the people to pray, silence is kept
and the minister says the Collect*

God our Father,
from the beginning
you have blessed creation with abundant life.

Therefore with angels . . .

Extended Proper Preface

All glory, honour, thanks and praise
be given to you, creator of heaven and earth.
When you made us in your image,
creating us male and female,
you gave us the gift of marriage.
When sin marred that image
you healed our brokenness,
giving your Son to die for us.
Therefore we raise our voices,
with all who have served you in every age,
to proclaim the glory of your name:

The Lord's Prayer

The Blessing of the Marriage

(if not used earlier)

Breaking of the Bread

Giving of Communion

Prayer after Communion

The following Post Communion may be used

Gracious God,
may *N* and *N*, who have been bound together
in these holy mysteries,
become one in body and soul.
May they live in faithfulness and peace
and obtain those eternal joys
prepared for all who love you;
through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
All Amen.

The Dismissal

All and also with you.

(or)

We have celebrated the love of *N* and *N*.
We now celebrate God's love for all of us.
Peace, in Christ, to all of you *cf 1 Peter 5.14*

All and also with you.

These words may be added

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

The service continues with the Preparation of the Table. Presidential texts for the rest of the service are to be found in Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England (pages 155-335) and the President's edition (pages 381-524).

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine

The following prayer may be used

In your goodness, Lord,
accept the gift of our love,
and with a father's affection watch over this couple
you have joined in the covenant of marriage;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

An authorized Eucharistic Prayer is used.

One of these Proper Prefaces may be used

Short Proper Preface

And now we give you thanks
because you have made the union between Christ and his Church
a pattern for the marriage between husband and wife.

Pour out your blessings upon *N* and *N*,
that they may be joined in mutual love and companionship,
in holiness and commitment to each other.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

Either one or two readings from Scripture precede the Gospel reading (see pages 137-149).

At the end of each the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The psalm or canticle (pages 169-172) follows the first reading; other hymns and songs may be used between the readings.

Gospel Reading

An acclamation may herald the Gospel reading.

One of the following may be used

Alleluia, alleluia.

God made them male and female
and the two will become one.

All Alleluia. *cf Mark 10.8*

(or)

Alleluia, alleluia.

God is love;

let us love one another
as God has loved us.

All Alleluia. cf 1 John 4.8-11

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

¶ The Marriage

A hymn may be sung.

The couple stand before the minister.

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 those on page 150 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.

May they discern in your word
order and purpose for their lives;
and may the power of your Holy Spirit
lead them in truth and defend them in adversity.

Lord of life and love:

All hear our prayer.

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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.

Father of all,
in Jesus Christ you open to us
the treasures of your kingdom;
guide us by your Holy Spirit
that we may receive your redeeming grace
and reflect the perfect unity of your love,
for you live and reign,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

A hymn may be sung.

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

The president may introduce the Peace with a suitable sentence.

The following may be used

To crown all things there must be love.
Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.
The peace of the Lord be always with you

See Note 10 on page 134.

A hymn or psalm may be used (see pages 148-149).

Prayers

These or other suitable prayers are used (see Note 9 on page 133 and pages 156-168). The prayers usually include these concerns and may follow this sequence:

¶ *Thanksgiving*

¶ *Spiritual growth*

¶ *Faithfulness, joy, love, forgiveness and healing*

¶ *Children, other family members and friends*

Faithful God,
holy and eternal,
source of life and spring of love,
we thank and praise you for bringing *N* and *N* to this day,
and we pray for them.
Lord of life and love:
All hear our prayer.

May their marriage be life-giving and life-long,
enriched by your presence and strengthened by your grace;
may they bring comfort and confidence to each other
in faithfulness and trust.
Lord of life and love:
All hear our prayer.

May the hospitality of their home
bring refreshment and joy to all around them;
may their love overflow to neighbours in need
and embrace those in distress.
Lord of life and love:
All hear our prayer.

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 prayer on page 151
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 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 Proclamation

The minister addresses the people

In the presence of God, and before this congregation,
N and N have given their consent
and made their marriage vows to each other.
They have declared their marriage by the joining of hands
and by the giving and receiving of *rings*.
I therefore proclaim that they are husband and wife.

The minister joins their right hands together and says

Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

The Blessing of the Marriage

The Blessing of the Marriage may be used here or after the Lord's Prayer. The husband and wife kneel. The minister may use the following blessing or one of those on pages 152-155.

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.

Registration of the Marriage