

Groom and Bride Wedding

E.g. 9am: Pre service music playlist

9.30am: Service Commences – Welcome guests and any housekeeping (eg photo etiquette) (Pastor)

9.32am: Procession - bridal party enters: “Ladies and gentlemen, please be upstanding for the bride.”

Welcome – Pastor

Family and friends, welcome to the wedding of [GROOM’S NAME] and [BRIDE’S NAME]. It's a great day, isn't it! To be in this place, to witness the joining of this man and this woman in the God-given covenant of marriage. [GROOM’S NAME] & [BRIDE’S NAME], thank you for inviting us to be here, with you today.

Song (Songs optional)

Statement of Purpose of Marriage

We are here in God's sight, and in the presence of this gathering, so that [GROOM’S NAME] & [BRIDE’S NAME] may be united in marriage. Our Lord Jesus Christ said of marriage that 'From the beginning God made them male and female. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one." So they are no longer two but one. What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder.'

Marriage is the symbol of God's unending love for his people, and of the union between Christ and His church. So the Apostle Paul teaches that the husband must love his wife as Christ loved the church, and that the wife must give due honour to her husband.

Marriage should be honoured by all, and it is not to be entered into lightly or carelessly but with reverent and serious consideration of the purposes for which it has been given.

Marriage is a gift from God for the well-being of mankind, and for the proper expression of the sexual natures and affections he has given us.

Marriage is a life-long union in which a man and a woman are called to give themselves in body, mind, and spirit to one another. And so grow in their love for one another, in the joys and sorrows of life, in prosperity and adversity.

As God planned, in marriage a new family is established. And if this union is blessed with children they may be nurtured in secure and loving care, for their well-being and instruction, and for the good order of society, to the glory of God.

[GROOM’S NAME] & [BRIDE’S NAME] have come to this place, to be joined in this holy union to which God has led them. They seek his blessing on their life together, that they may live for his glory.

Declaration

Recognising that they are answerable to God, [GROOM’S NAME] & [BRIDE’S NAME] have declared that they know of no reason why their marriage would not be lawful.

Ask the congregation if they know of any reason why the marriage would not be lawful

Who gives this woman to be married?

The Consent

[GROOM’S NAME], will you take [BRIDE’S NAME] as your wife, to live together as God has ordained, in marriage?

Will you love her, honour her, cherish and protect her,
in sickness and in health;
and, forsaking all others,
be faithful to her, as long as you both shall live?
(Groom answers, "I will")

[BRIDE'S NAME], will you have [GROOM'S NAME] as your husband,
to live together as God has ordained, in marriage?
Will you love him, respect him, honour, and protect him,
in sickness and in health;
and, forsaking all others,
be faithful to him, as long as you both shall live?
(Bride answers, "I will")

The Vows

Groom (holding Bride's R.H. & looking at her.)
In the presence of God and before this gathering/
I [GROOM'S NAME] /
do take you [BRIDE'S NAME]/
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/
until we are parted by death/
This is my solemn vow.

Bride (right hand & looking at Groom)
In the presence of God and before this gathering/
I [BRIDE'S NAME]/
do take you [GROOM'S NAME] /
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/
until we are parted by death/
This is my solemn vow.

Giving of the Rings (left hand): (_____ has the rings)

Groom:

[BRIDE'S NAME] with this ring I wed you/
with all that I am/
and all that I have I honour you/
In the name of God. Amen.

Bride:

[GROOM'S NAME], I receive this ring as a symbol of our marriage/
God enable us to grow together in love.

Bride:

[GROOM'S NAME] with this ring I wed you/
with all that I am/
and all that I have I honour you/
In the name of God. Amen.

Groom:

[BRIDE'S NAME], I receive this ring as a symbol of our marriage/
God enable us to grow together in love.

The Declaration of Marriage

[GROOM'S NAME] & [BRIDE'S NAME] have now heard one another give their solemn vows and promises, before God and before this gathering. They have confirmed it by giving and receiving rings and by the joining of hands. Therefore, I declare them to be husband and wife; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord pour out the riches of his grace upon you that you may please him and live together in love until your life's end. Amen. Those whom God has joined together, let no one separate...PAUSE..."YOU MAY KISS THE BRIDE." (Applause)

Bridal party seated

Prayer

Bible Reading: (E.g. 1 John 4:7-19)

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

13 This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. 15 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. 16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. 17 This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. 18

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. 19 We love because he first loved us.

Message/ Wedding Sermon – Pastor

Prayer – Pastor

Song

The Blessing

May Almighty God who created our first parents who set them apart as his own and joined them together in marriage, pour upon you the riches of his love, set you apart as his in Christ and bless you. That you may please him in body and soul, and live together in holy love to your lives' end. Amen.

Signing of the Register (song plays during signing)

Invite the bridal party (and other witnesses if not in the bridal party) to move to the registry table.

- Invite photographer forward to take photos
- With permission from the photographer, invite guests to take photos.
- Everyone welcome to morning/afternoon tea in the church hall...

Presentation Mr. and Mrs. Groom & Bride

"Ladies and gentlemen...please be upstanding and welcome... Mr. and Mrs. _____”

Recessional (song plays)

Groom & Bride to process out in the traditional way to the hall – then they will greet people as they walk into the hall for morning/afternoon tea.