



Wedding Liturgy

This is the order of service I have built up over my years of ministry which can be used with couple of same or different gender identities. It is adapted every time I use it. I have undoubtedly copied words and expressions from many sources, but over 20 years of adaptation can no longer identify the sources. This ceremony is based on having had 2 sessions with the couple in the months leading up to the wedding, in which we discuss their marriage, plan the wedding and the couple write and discuss their own vows.

Order of Service

Entrance

Welcome & Introduction: We meet together in the presence of God to witness the marriage of XXX & XXX, to ask God's blessing upon them, to support them with our prayers and to share their joy.

Hymn

Statement of the Purpose of Marriage

XXX & XXX, Christian marriage, is a lifelong gift and calling.
A gift, to love each other with respect, tenderness and delight.
A calling, to live faithfully together,
offering each other companionship, friendship and comfort,
and offering yourselves as a couple to share God's love in the world.
Marriage is an expression of the deep interdependent love which Christ reveals as the way of abundant life.
Let us hear some thoughts about this love in our reading...

Reading: This reading reflects the purpose of marriage/ the commitment of love.

Prayer

Spirit of Life we thank you today for the gift and calling of marriage.
We thank you for drawing XXX & XXX's lives together, for the joy they find in each other and for the love and trust they share.
As they seek now in marriage, to confirm their happiness and deepen their trust, may the Spirit of Life enrich their love.
May the promises they make today be like seedlings planted in good soil, which over time grow strong, offering strength & shelter, courage & joy, to XXX & XXX and to all whom they meet.
In Jesus' Name Amen.

Promises

"[Name], do you take [Name] to be your wedded [husband/wife/spouse] and live together in marriage. / OR Do you [Name] accept [Name] in marriage
Do you promise to love, comfort, honour and keep [him/her/name],
For better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health,
And forsaking all others, be faithful only to [him/her/name] so long as you both shall live?"

Which is answered by "I do".

Vows – these are written by the couple in the preparation session with the minister. During the ceremony, vows are repeated after the minister, while the couple face each other and say the vows in turn to each other.



Rings

Heavenly Creator, by your blessing
let these rings be to XXX & XXX
a symbol of unending love and faithfulness,
to remind them of the promises and vows
which they have made this day
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Exchange of rings

Repeat after minister (*in turn*);

XXX / XXX: I give you this ring as a symbol of all that we have promised and all that we shall share.

Declaration of Marriage & Kiss

Reading: *This reading is a commissioning to the couple for their marriage*

Prayer & Blessing

Spirit of Life

We thank you for all the ways love comes into our lives,
And for the opportunities of joy and fulfillment that marriage can bring.
Bless XXX & XXX who have joined together in love.

Confirm their promises in their happiness;

Keep them faithful & true to each other,

Ready to forgive and be forgiven.

As they grow together, may each be to the other a companion in joy, a comfort in sorrow and a strength in need.

May their home be a place of welcome and sharing, of security and peace.

Bless their family (*children can be named*) and friends who continue to give them love and friendship through the years.

Bless those close to us who cannot be with us today and

Bless those who suffer and struggle while we celebrate.

May this precious day spread a gift of love and hope beyond the time of this celebration and into many lives.

Be with us as we go from here to celebrate the goodness of life, love and friendship,

We pray In the name of God; Source, Guide and Inspiration.

Hymn

Benediction

Signing of Certificate

Exit